



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

13 April 1995

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Presents Security Model to Palestinians [Tel Aviv Radio] 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Arab League Envoy on Turkish Operations 1
 Categorically Rejects 'Pretexts' [INA] 1
 Refutes Reports on Pullout [MENA] 1

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 28 Mar 2

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Leader Ghawshah Criticizes Authority [AL-DUSTUR 11 Apr] 3
 PA Statement Urges Jordan To Stop Hamas Activities [Jericho VOP] 5
 Amman Summoning of Ghawshah Reported [Jericho VOP] 5
 PA Spokesman: Gaza Hamas Disclaims Jordan's Hamas [MENA] 6
 Hamas, Gaza Opposition Groups on 'Arafat Moves [HA'ARETZ 12 Apr] 6
 Hamas Leader: 'Fighters' Will Never Give Up Weapons [Jerusalem Radio] 6
 Hamas Leader Suggests Plan To Defuse Tension With PA [Jerusalem Radio] 7
 'Arafat Advisers Devise Plan To Confront Hamas [Jerusalem TV] 7
 Sha'th on Gaza Situation, Combating 'Terrorism' 7
 Sees 'Climate of Deep Disappointment' [Rome L'UNITA 10 Apr] 7
 On 'Measures' Against Hamas, Islamic Jihad [Jerusalem International] 8
 Criticizes Anti-Peace Actions [Jericho VOP] 9
 Abu-Middayn on Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Dialogue [Cairo International] 9
 Radio Reports 'Text' of Authority Arms Ban Statement [Jericho VOP] 10
 Public Opinion Said Against Hamas, Islamic Jihad Arrests [Jerusalem Radio] 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

President Continues 'Consultations' With Groups 12
 Receives HAMAS Delegation [Algiers Radio] 12
 Meets With Democratic Movement [Algiers Radio] 12
 Further on al-Nahdah Plan To 'Resolve Crisis' [London AL-HAYAH 10 Apr] 12
 Workers Party Official Criticizes Regime [Paris TV] 13
 Minister Outlines Advantages for Investors [Algiers TV] 14
 Minister on Industrial Restructuring, IMF Loans [Algiers Radio] 15
 'Terrorist' Aouiche Mohamed Sentenced in Absentia [Algiers Radio] 16

Egypt

Proposed 'Guarantees' to Nonnuclear States Faulted 16
 Musa Calls UN Resolution 'Disappointing' [MENA] 16
 Daily Terms Proposal 'Superficial' [AL-AHRAM 10 Apr] 16

Al-Sharif Relates Mubarak's Remarks to Military [MENA]	17
'Important' Results of Mubarak's U.S. Trip Outlined [AL-AHRAM 9 Apr]	19
Mubarak Receives Message From Afghan President [MENA]	19
Al-Sharif Views Mubarak Message to al-Qadhdhafi [Cairo Radio]	20
Nasirite Party Supports Libyan Hajj Decision [AL-'ARABI 10 Apr]	20
Yemeni Prime Minister Praises Relations [MENA]	20
Israeli Energy Minister Meets Officials in Cairo [Jerusalem Radio]	20
Commentary Blames Israel for Gaza Violence [Cairo Radio]	21
Writer Criticizes U.S.-Israeli 'Schemes' [AL-SHA'B 7 Apr]	21
Danger of Turkish 'Security Zone' in Iraq Viewed [AL-AHRAM 6 Apr]	23
Police Killed, 2 Wounded in Shooting [MENA]	23
Mauritania	
Cooperation Talks Held With Tunisian Foreign Minister [Nouakchott Radio]	23
Agreements Signed [Nouakchott Radio]	24
Sudan	
Reportage on Visit by Iranian Assembly Speaker	24
Importance of Visit Stressed [Omdurman Radio]	24
Speaker Addresses Parliament [Tehran Radio]	24
More on Address [Omdurman Radio]	25
Cites Efforts Against Islam [IRNA]	25
Agreement Reached on Investment Company [AFP]	26
ARABIAN PENINSULA	
Kuwaiti General on GCC Military Meetings [KUNA]	27
Bahrain	
Interior Minister on Security Situation, Riots [WAKH]	27
Reportage on Visit by South Africa's N. Mandela	28
Mandela Not To Attend Gulf Forum Meeting [Johannesburg Radio]	28
Holds Talks With Amir [WAKH]	29
Mandela Concludes Visit [WAKH]	29
Kuwait	
Mosques, Their Role in Politics Discussed [London AL-MAJALLAH 15 Jan]	29
Oman	
Foreign Minister, Iraqi Finance Minister Confer [INA]	30
Saudi Arabia	
'Islamic Change Movement' Threatens Foreign Forces [London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 11 Apr] ...	30
CDLR Bulletin on Change, Success of Protests [London CDLR MONITOR 7 Apr]	31
Yemen	
Salih Denies Harboring 'Egyptian Afghan Groups' [MENA]	35
IRAQ	
Talabani: Turkey Forcing Kurds To Talk With Saddam [Istanbul TURKIYE 11 Apr]	36
Spokesman: 'Ciller's Government Has Gone Too Far' [INA]	36
Turkey Held Responsible for Human Rights Abuses [INA]	37
Paper: U.S. Supports Turks in Violating Rights [INA]	37

Editor: CIA Seeks \$15 Million To 'Topple Saddam' [Baghdad Radio]	37
Saddam Appoints New 5th Army Corps Commander [London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation]	38
Report on Resumption of Nuclear Program Denied [INA]	38
Minister Urges Arab, Foreign Nations To Release Assets [INA]	38
Oil Minister Urges Nation's Return to Oil Market [IRNA]	38
Russian Interests Said as Important as U.S. Interests [AL-JUMHURIYAH 25 Jan]	39

ISRAEL

Rabin Against IDF Return to Gaza, Supports Separation [Tel Aviv Radio]	41
Rabin on Possible Gaza Statehood, Conditions [THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Apr]	41
PA Antiterror 'Success' To Be Judged Over Time [Jerusalem Radio]	42
UN Cooperation in Antiterror Struggle Requested [Jerusalem Radio]	42
Rabin Reportedly Convenes IAEC; No Details [Jerusalem Radio]	42
Plenum Meeting Said 'Routine' [MA'ARIV 13 Apr]	42
Current Syrian Stand Seen as 'More Inflexible' [Jerusalem Radio]	42
Lubrani Vows To Retaliate for Katyusha Attacks [Beirut Radio]	43
Lubrani: Peace Will End Hizballah as 'Military Force' [THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Apr]	43

JORDAN

U.S. Senator Hank Brown Arrives for Visit [Amman Radio]	44
Confers With Foreign Minister [Amman Radio]	44
Hamas Spokesman Summoned Over Recent Statements [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	44
PA's al-Tarifi Meets With Acting Prime Minister [Amman Radio]	44
Conveys Message on Coordination [JORDAN TIMES 13-14 Apr]	44
Representative to Self-Rule Authority Appointed [AL-ASWAQ 14 Apr]	45
Yeltsin Adviser Meets With Prince Hasan [Amman Radio]	45
Denies Mission To Push Citizenship [JORDAN TIMES 14 Apr]	45
Speaker Meets German Delegation on Peace Process [Amman Radio]	45
Paper: Israeli Reoccupation of Gaza 'Illusion' [AL-DUSTUR 13 Apr]	46
Daily: Economic Meeting May Be 'Disappointment' [THE STAR 13-18 Apr]	46

LEBANON

Hizballah on 'Arafat Decision To Disarm Palestinians [Voice of the Oppressed]	48
Hizballah Official Views Talks With Saudi Ambassador [AL-NAHAR 5 Apr]	48
Al-Hirawi Receives al-Shar', al-Asad Message [Damascus Radio]	49
President al-Hirawi Pardons 2 Prisoners [VOL]	49

SYRIA

Official Stresses 'No Progress' in Ross Tour [London AL-HAYAH 11 Apr]	50
'Sources': Japan May Send Troops to UN Golan Force [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	50
Al-Shar' Welcomes Proposed Japanese Role [Damascus Radio]	50
UN Commander Sets Conditions [Tokyo KYODO]	50
Al-Shar' Confers With U.S. Senator Brown [Damascus Radio]	51
PLO To Attend Damascus Solidarity Conference [AL-DUSTUR 11 Apr]	51
Palestinian Authority Accused of 'Repression' [Damascus Radio]	51
Paper Sees Palestinian 'Civil War' Looming in Gaza [Damascus Radio]	52
Radio on Components of 'Viable' Peace [Damascus Radio]	52
Press: No Post-Peace Talks Before Peace Prevails [Damascus Radio]	53
Committee Calls For Confronting Israeli 'Intransigence' [Damascus Radio]	54
Israel's Peace Stand, Separate Accords Discussed [Damascus Radio]	54

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Russian Aircraft Continue 'Savage Attacks' [Kabul Radio]	55
Envoy Says 'Foreign Powers' Support Taliban [IRNA]	55

Bangladesh

Views on H. Clinton Visit, Water Resources	[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 5 Apr]	55
Kuwaiti Crown Prince Begins Official Visit	[Dhaka Radio]	56

India

Delhi Rejects Linking Security Assurances With NPT	[Delhi Radio]	57
Article Views U.S. Stand on NPT Issue	[THE ASIAN AGE 5 Apr]	57
Editorial Urges 'Severe Campaign' Against Pakistan	[DAINIK JAGRAN 11 Apr]	59
Commentary Expects 'Minimal' U.S. Gestures to Pakistan	[BUSINESS STANDARD 12 Apr]	59
Editorial Sees Need for More Defense Spending	[INDIAN EXPRESS 7 Apr]	60
Columnist Criticizes Annual Defense Report	[THE ECONOMIC TIMES 7 Apr]	61

Iran

Velayati Calls Nuclear Technology Aims 'Peaceful'	[IRNA]	61
Official: Bushehr Plant Not Capable of Plutonium	[Tehran Radio]	62
Daily Applauds Moscow Nuclear Deal; U.S. 'Rebuffed'	[TEHRAN TIMES 5 Apr]	62
Minister Denies Oil Platforms Shipped to Serbia	[IRNA]	63
NIOC on Azerbaijan Consortium, Conoco Cancellation	[IRNA]	63
Legal Framework for Caspian 'Exploitation' Urged	[Tehran Radio]	64
'Concern' Expressed Over Escalation in Tajikistan	[IRNA]	64
Gaza Disarmament Result of U.S.-Israeli 'Pressure'	[Tehran Radio]	64
'Antirevolutionaries' Blamed for Tehran Unrest	[TEHRAN TIMES 8 Apr]	65
Spread of False Rumors During Nowruz Criticized	[KEYHAN 30 Mar]	65
Editorial Emphasizes Government-People Trust	[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 3 Apr]	66
Velayati Meets ASEAN Official, Views Closer Ties	[Tehran Radio]	68

Pakistan

Officials, Opposition React to Bhutto's U.S. Visit		68
Defense Minister: Visit 'Very Successful'	[THE NEWS 13 Apr]	68
'Government Source' on Visit's Success	[THE NATION 13 Apr]	69
Opposition: Bhutto Returning 'Empty Handed'	[THE NEWS 13 Apr]	70
Editorials View Bhutto's Visit to Washington		70
'No Dramatic Breakthrough' Seen	[THE NATION 13 Apr]	70
'Sick Relationship' With U.S. Viewed	[THE MUSLIM 13 Apr]	71
Rejection of U.S. Demands Urged	[NAWA-I-WAQT 12 Apr]	72

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Continued Peace Talks With LTTE		73
4th Round of Talks Held	[Colombo International]	73
Lifting of Restrictions Discussed	[Colombo International]	73
Talks End on 'Optimistic Note'	[Colombo Radio]	73

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Presents Security Model to Palestinians

TA1304084795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Apr 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is determined to pursue the negotiations with the Palestinians toward an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judea and Samaria and elections in the territories. The Israeli negotiating team has been making preparations to have a drafted agreement by the target date of 1 July and, contrary to some views, Rabin has no hesitations and is determined to push forward. Proof of this can be gleaned from his remarks at the Labor faction meeting yesterday: If the negotiations are discontinued, terrorism will escalate, he said. He noted on another occasion that a halt of the political process would result in a violent pan-Palestinian assault on Israel.

At clandestine negotiations conducted by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, Major General 'Uzi Dayan, Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray], General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, as well as Yosi Ginosar who carries direct messages from Rabin to 'Arafat, Israel presented a model for the security aspect of the interim arrangement, based on lessons learned from the first stage of Gaza and Jericho. The first stage of the interim arrangement's implementation according to the model consists of a revised Palestinian security policy and the implementation of jointly learned lessons in the Gaza Strip.

The IDF believes 'Arafat can deliver the goods—namely, take action that will prevent terror, but he has to pay a political price he has so far refused to pay. It is not simple, security sources said, but we detect the first signs of a change. If the change continues, the situation may improve.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Arab League Envoy on Turkish Operations

Categorically Rejects 'Pretexts'

JN1104180495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, has said that Iraq categorically rejects the pretexts the Turkish Government is reiterating to justify its military operations inside Iraqi territory. These operations flagrantly violate the provisions of international law and breach the principles of good neighborliness, he added.

In statements to Arab and foreign journalists here today, Dr. Najm said the Turkish Government is fully responsible for the outcome of its military operations against the

Iraqi citizens and their property and for endangering their lives. He stressed that Iraq denounces this premeditated violation of human rights and the international law.

He added that the Turkish Government has no other choice but to withdraw its forces immediately from Iraqi territory, respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, stop interfering in Iraq's internal affairs, and abide by the UN Charter, which bans encroaching on others' territories.

Dr. Najm explained that the security situation in northern Iraq would not have reached this level had it not been for the U.S.-British interference. With the approval of the Turkish Government, U.S.-British interference has turned Turkish territory into a springboard to peddle a wide conspiracy against Iraq in order to create an abnormal situation that does not conform to the international law and does not lead to regional stability and security.

He asserted that Turkey is following a double standard policy on an intermingled issue. Turkey is invading Iraqi territory on the pretext of eliminating the Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party at a time when it is cooperating with the rebel cliques of the Iraqi Kurds. This will not help Turkey resolve its problems at all, he added.

Dr. Najm said Turkey should stop using Turkish territory as a base for the U.S.-British encroachment upon Iraq's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity. It should also realize that this suspect colonialist scheme also targets Turkey itself, he added.

Refutes Reports on Pullout

NC1304102095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, Dr. Nabil Najm, has described reports on the withdrawal of Turkish troops from northern Iraq as misleading to the international public after more than 20 days of a military operation. He pointed out that what happened was merely a reorganization of certain military sectors.

Speaking to reporters today, Dr. Najm denied that there was an agreement between Iraq and Turkey to pursue Turkish Kurds in northern Iraq. He explained that past agreements provided for the entry of joint troops to chase smugglers up to 5 kilometers on each side. He added that these troops were exclusive to border guard units.

Touching on the Arab and international position on lifting the embargo on the Iraqi people, Najm said that some Arab voices officially call for lifting the embargo on Iraq, now that it has honored the commitments mandated in UN Resolution 687.

The Iraqi delegate pointed out that what the UN Security Council is considering is the monthly report of Rolf Ekeus, chief of the international committee in charge of

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destroying Iraq's weapons. He stressed the importance of that report six months after the actual and official operation of permanent controls on the Iraqi industries, the controls that proved efficient and reflected Iraq's cooperation with the committee in this connection.

He added that reports circulated recently about Ekeus' report concern Iraq's imports of a biological substance used for medical and agricultural purposes. He explained that Iraq has submitted a statement of the amounts it used in peaceful applications, in addition to timetables listing these applications. He affirmed that Iraq has no biological weapons and that it is not seeking to develop them.

Dr. Najm added that the commotion on that issue has political dimensions, pointing out that the dialogue is continuing between Iraq and the committee to clarify this point.

Asked about Arab reconciliation, Ambassador Najm said that Iraq responded positively to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's suggestions. He emphasized that past occurrences should not hamper the present or the future because the challenges the Arab nation is facing now are graver than those it encountered in the past.

Asked about enlivening the Arab League, he said that Arab countries agree on the need for it to have an active role vis-a-vis the challenges facing the nation through joint Arab action; enhanced economic, social, and cultural frameworks; and the implementation of joint Arab projects despite any political differences.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 28 Mar NC0704100695

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 28 March edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Boxer's Conversion to Islam Hailed
2. Ulema Criticize UN Call for Tolerance
3. Direct Broadcast's Danger Discussed
4. New York City Mayor Said Favoring Jews Over Egyptians
5. U.S.-Led New World Order Assailed
6. Jerusalem Bishop Interviewed
7. Islamic Economy Seen as Answer

BOXER'S CONVERSION TO ISLAM HAILED

Boxer Mike Tyson's conversion to Islam is hailed in an unattributed 120-word report on page 1. The report, accompanied by a photo of Tyson emerging from a mosque, notes that Islam's tolerant teachings have

turned Tyson into an "amiable person" who observes his prayers on time. The report adds that despite some Western writers' deliberate attempts to cast doubt on his conversion and the boycott of his own family, Tyson has become "a symbol of Islam in America and the entire world of sports."

ULEMA CRITICIZE UN CALL FOR TOLERANCE

In a seminar organized by the National Committee for Education, Science, and Culture marking the UN's 50th anniversary, Islamic ulema have "totally rejected" the UN call for tolerance in the present circumstances, writes Muhammad al-Abnudi in an approximately 500-word report on page 2. Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin, secretary general of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, notes that Muslims believed in tolerance when they were in a position of power, but to show forgiveness now that they are not in a position of power is nothing but submission. Noting that the West is required to show tolerance first, Shahin asks: "Could we be tolerant of those who usurped our land, violated the honor of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and displaced Muslims everywhere? We cannot acknowledge such tolerance unless they become tolerant to us." Mufti Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi points out that Islam calls for "courageous" and not "humiliating" tolerance. Referring to the Western version of tolerance, Islamic History Professor Dr. Ahmad Shalabi uses the example of the two veiled Muslim girls in France who have worried France "like a bomb." The two were forced to leave school and their parents had to go to court to get them into school.

DIRECT BROADCAST'S DANGER DISCUSSED

Jamal Salim, in an approximately 1,000-word report on page 3, writes on a seminar organized by the Media Department of al-Azhar's Arabic Language College on the "Dangers of Direct Broadcast to the Islamic World." The speakers at the seminar note that the Direct Broadcast System allows satellite transmission to reach Muslim homes equipped with satellite dishes without any control by the ground satellite stations. They caution against the use of this transmission to "promote sex, annul the Islamic cultural identity, and keep Muslims away from the ethics and principles of their religion." Dr. Karam Shalabi, head of the Media Department, notes that the "real danger" posed by the satellite "dishes" is that they are being used to convey "moral values and principles that differ and even conflict with the Islamic ethics." 'AQIDATI Chief Editor Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf points out that the problems addressed in the Direct Broadcast transmissions are exclusive to non-Muslim communities, which are materialistic and secular and fight spiritual values and in which religion is "marginalized" and the "idea of God" is vague. He points out that banning this system is neither practical nor viable. Instead, Muslims must try to alleviate its negative effects by educating Muslims culturally and enabling them to build an Islamic character that could offer the Islamic "model" instead of the Western model, he adds.

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NEW YORK CITY MAYOR SAID FAVORING JEWS OVER EGYPTIANS

Muhammad Muhammadayn writes in an approximately 600-word report on page 21 that since his election as mayor of New York City approximately a year ago, Rudolph Giuliani has been using both "legitimate and illegitimate" means to appease the Jews, who have "large control" over the political and economic life in the United States. In the process of organizing downtown New York City, which is abundant with restaurants and stores owned by Jews, the new mayor suspended approximately 3,000 Egyptian street vendors from selling food and drinks on their licensed pushcarts. The writer adds that protests and demonstrations by the vendors forced the mayor to promise to reconsider his city reorganization plan, but nothing has happened. Mahmud 'Atif, an Egyptian who works in the food business in New York City, explains that it is not easy for a mayor to risk his "political future" and challenge the Jews for the sake of Egyptians or others.

U.S.-LED NEW WORLD ORDER ASSAILED

An approximately 700-word article by Majdi Salim on page 8 entitled "The Security Council's New Sting" notes that the U.S.-led new world order continues to use the Security Council as a tool to give legitimacy to everything that the United States wants, particularly if it is against the interest and security of others. Salim adds that the United States wants everyone but Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty "to deny us even the hope of possessing what we can answer Israel's nuclear threat with." Using the policy of the carrot and stick, the writer adds, the United States is indirectly threatening Egypt to suspend its aid and in the meantime is submitting a draft resolution to the Security Council offering military and humanitarian guarantees for the non-nuclear states that sign the treaty. The draft resolution gives the UN the right to adopt measures to restore peace and security in the event of any nuclear threat, including the use of non-nuclear force at the Security Council's mandate. He notes that the Security Council resolutions are deliberately phrased to be deceptive and to contain "loopholes" ensuring that they cannot be implemented, as is the case with Resolution 242. Salim adds: "We have tried before the Security Council, which always stings us like a scorpion while we smile."

JERUSALEM BISHOP INTERVIEWED

Exiled Jerusalem Bishop Cappuci is interviewed by Tariq 'Abdallah on page 20. In the approximately 1,500-word interview, Cappuci stressed that there can be no peace while Jerusalem is monopolized as Israel's capital. Noting that Jerusalem is the birthplace of the three heavenly religions, Cappuci pointed out that it is unreasonable for 15 million Jews worldwide to control the destiny of 3 billion Christians and Muslims in the world. The Jerusalem bishop added that the Israelis have distorted the image of Jerusalem and turned it from a holy

city to a tourist city. Noting that Jews have desecrated the sanctity of the city, Cappuci added that he had personally seen Jews entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre "almost naked with cigarettes dangling from their mouths and followed by their dogs." He referred to Israeli digging operations near Christian and Muslim sacred sites, the confiscation of monasteries and Islamic property, and the destruction of entire Arab neighborhoods to make room for Jewish worshipers near the Wailing Wall. Concluding, Cappuci notes that Muslims and Christians are united in the face of the Israeli "enemy," adding that in essence religion calls for tolerance, fraternity, and amity.

ISLAMIC ECONOMY SEEN AS ANSWER

In an approximately 400-word article on page 20, 'Adil Dayf argues that the current economic turbulence worldwide and the tremendous loss incurred by the Islamic states as a result prove that Muslims have no alternative but to consolidate the Islamic economy and depend on themselves rather than on others. Put together, he adds, Muslim countries possess vast experience and huge resources that enable them to set up a giant Islamic economic structure that could compete with all other economies. He adds this does not mean that we should abandon cooperation with other countries because nobody could live alone in this world. He notes that the first step toward saving the Islamic economy is to pool the Islamic resources together to pay the debts burdening some Islamic states. Once the debt problem is over, he adds, efforts could be made to unleash development projects in all Islamic states so that the Islamic world could be a giant economic power in the world of today.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Leader Ghawshah Criticizes Authority

JN1304074795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 Apr 95 p 29

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by correspondent Taghrid Sa'adah in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Sa'adah] In light of the recent operation that was carried out by the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions in Gaza, the occupation authorities have escalated the war of extermination they have been waging against Hamas since the Oslo agreement by committing this odious crime against the most active Palestinian resistance cells in the occupied territories. What is your comment on this?

[Ghawshah] We, in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], believe that the al-Shaykh Radwan crime which martyred many, including Kamal Kuhayl, one of the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam leaders, is one of the many crimes that have been committed since the Palestinian Authority entered the self-rule areas. We recall some of these crimes: There is the al-Hams crime. Al-Hams was a

Fatah officer who was liquidated while two 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions members were wounded. This incident was hushed up with the knowledge of the intelligence agencies in the Palestinian Authority. There is also the Hani 'Abid crime. Furayh Abu-Middayn [Palestinian Authority justice minister] recently admitted that the Zionist intelligence and a man named Rahmani were behind this crime. This crime was committed in the self-rule area. There is also the Filastin mosque massacre on 8 January 1994. The Palestinian Authority held a third party which does not exist responsible for this. This crime was also hushed up in spite of the fact that as many as 200 were either martyred or wounded. The al-Shaykh Radwan crime is also within this context. We must point out here that this is the same method that was previously used in Lebanon and elsewhere to liquidate the opposition and key figures. There material and moral evidence confirming the collusion of the intelligence services of the Zionist occupation and those of the Palestinian Authority in the execution of this crime.

As for moral evidence, the most important is the ongoing pressure by Rabin and Peres on the Palestinian Authority to have it liquidate and terminate the Hamas Movement under the pretext of striking at extremist Islamic forces. The Israelis have given the Palestinian Authority the option of striking at Hamas or spreading its authority to other parts of the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority was also subjected to direct pressure from the U.S. Administration through statements by Clinton and Christopher on the need to attack the Hamas Movement and wipe out Islamic extremism. There are also the statements of the head of the Palestinian Authority made to YEDI'OT AHARONOT some 10 days ago in which he said he will call for crushing Hamas.

Within the same context, we also recall Nasr Yusuf's threats when he entered the Gaza Strip and said he is ready to sacrifice 100 policemen to eliminate two hunted persons, one of whom was Kamal Kuhayl. As for material evidence, there is much, but the most important was the theatrical show that was put out after the explosion, the explanation of the facts and the display of missiles, followed by the news conferences Ghazi al-Jabali and others held, and the talk about hundreds of hand grenades and dozens of kilograms of explosives, some of which only some big powers have. [passage omitted]

[Sa'adah] Rabin and the Israeli Government always insist that if President 'Arafat wants to expand his authority he must first prove his capability and put an end to "Palestinian terrorism." What is your comment on this and what will he do in this regard?

[Ghawshah] 'Arafat now stands at a historic, national, and religious turning point. He either continues to carry out the instructions and dictates of the Zionists—represented by Rabin, Peres, and Christopher—or returns to the moment of truth, sides with his own people, and frees himself from these pressures. The current situation is very serious and tension in the Gaza

Strip has gone too far. Everybody knows that Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], which is an Islamic, Arab, and Palestinian movement, is careful to direct its activities toward the Zionist occupation. Hamas does not seek authority and does not want a piece of the pie or any position. It wants to continue its historic jihad by keeping the torch of jihad and intifadah lit continuously. Therefore, this road should not be obstructed and the youths of al-Qassam and the Hamas Movement should not be turned from carrying out their sacred mission and jihad into defending themselves against arrests, accusations, and the attempt to disarm them, as well as against what is hidden in the coming period. Hence, wise men and honest people are called on to intervene immediately to convince the Palestinian Authority to clear the road for those mujahidin to continue their long march.

[Sa'adah] Your leaders in Gaza, particularly, Hamas leader Mahmud al-Zahhar, said you will retaliate against the crime?

[Ghawshah] The mammoth demonstration that was staged after the abominable crime and which proceeded to the cemetery, announced that the imminent revenge against the Zionists will be in the heart of Tel Aviv. Also, the massive rally—in which more than 30,000 participated, which took place last Wednesday, and in which Shaykh Ahmad Bahr spoke—was a message that the militant march of Hamas will continue to liberate Palestine, all Palestine. The Palestinian Authority should not stand in the face of this march. Regarding the accusation that Hamas is storing explosives in populated areas, the Palestinian people are aware that Hamas, which is like a loving mother to her children, cannot expose its sons and people to any harm as the authority is trying to propagate.

[Sa'adah] What are the latest developments in relations between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip in light of the series of the reconciliatory meetings that have been held recently, and how far has the dialogue progressed?

[Ghawshah] Everybody knows that the Hamas Movement is open to all and is ready to hold dialogue with all parties, except the Zionist enemy. The Hamas Movement has been holding continuous dialogues with various Islamic, pan-Arab, national, and Marxist forces. Also, the Hamas dialogue with Arab and Islamic regimes is continuous. Regarding the brothers in the Fatah Movement, Hamas has always held a dialogue with them to reach common denominators so as to maintain national unity and the march of resistance and jihad to liberate Palestine. However, after the Oslo accord, Hamas stopped the political dialogue with the PLO leadership because any dialogue after the Oslo accord would be in the interest of the Oslo group and would conflict with Hamas' principled stands. However, this did not prevent holding a dialogue on two points.

A dialogue on the political aspect has been held with a number of the PLO Central Council and Fatah members

who reject the Oslo accord. This dialogue has not stopped. A meeting was scheduled to be held between Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq [head of the Hamas Political Bureau] and brother Faruq Qaddumi [chief of the PLO Political Department] on 10 March 1994. This meeting, however, was postponed due to reasons related to brother Faruq Qaddumi.

The other kind of dialogue is held inside [the occupied territory] to remove any problems that might result at critical turning points in the march of our people. Hamas is keen to protect the domestic front so as to confront the Zionists enemy. [passage omitted]

PA Statement Urges Jordan To Stop Hamas Activities

JN1204191495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1730 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Statement issued by the media spokesman for the Palestinian Authority; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are surprised daily by statements issued by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Amman threatening the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and assailing the Palestinian leadership, using all kinds of abuses and slander. When Hamas political leaders in Gaza were asked about those statements, signed by the Hamas Media Bureau-Palestine, they said those statements are received via fax from Amman without consulting them. Those leaders stressed that they have reservations about the abuses, accusations, and slander employed in those statements.

We have informed official quarters at the highest levels in the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom about this more than once. Each time, we received promises and assertions that such practices would be stopped, and, moreover, that those standing behind them would be called to account. It was said that Jordan would not agree to be a base for attacks on the Palestinian leadership and a place for instigating acts of violence in the region, especially after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. They also stressed to us through diplomatic and other channels that Jordan's policy is not to interfere in the domestic affairs of the Palestinian people, the PLO, and the PNA.

However, we were surprised once again today by the issuance of a statement by the Hamas movement in Jordan circulated by news agencies about PNA measures to provide security for Palestinian citizens and the homeland. The Hamas statement says those measures cross red lines and warns the Palestinian Authority that its measures constitute a reckless step, playing with fire, and starting a new phase with unknown consequences. The statement includes other allegations that can be understood only as a threat to kindle sedition and civil war.

Therefore, eager to keep matters inside the one family, it is high time we stressed to the Jordanian authorities the

need to find solutions to such practices, proceeding from the special relationship in which we believe.

We would like also to underline the following facts:

First, Hamas' actual leadership in charge of planning, financing, and issuing orders is located in Amman. Its funds [as heard], statements, and verbal attacks are relayed through Jordanian mass media. These statements and orders, as well as the immoral and unacceptable verbal attacks against the leadership and the PNA issued from Amman, aim to escalate acts of anarchy against the peace process. We ask: Do the Jordanian authorities allow Hamas to have caches of explosives and weapons in Amman in Jordan, as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad do here in the PNA's territories, to terrorize citizens? Hamas and the Islamic Jihad also carry out actions to prevent workers, merchants, and farmers from earning their livings, starve them, and tamper with their destinies and their families' food.

Second, the insistence by some foreign quarters on disrupting security in Palestine is generated by harmful thinking that has faded away forever, but which still lives in some minds. These quarters dream of the possibility of tampering with our people's destinies and their higher national and religious interests; they are nurtured by the Likud and other extremist Israeli parties that concur with quarters that send their funds and their orders to be executed on our Palestinian soil. It is about time for these efforts to stop—efforts that seek to abort the Palestinian dream, kill the nascent Palestinian [authority], tamper with the national security of Palestinians, wreck the distinguished relations, instigate violence and anarchy, and sow sedition to undermine the PNA's prestige and depict it as if it is unable to honor its regional obligations, remove the suffering of our people, and realize their national goals.

We call on all the honorable members of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movement who refused to carry out foreign orders and instructions and were subjected to various forms of harassment and pursuit due to their moral, national, and religious positions to maintain their national concepts and religion and preserve the nascent Palestinian [authority] so we can upgrade our people's conditions, ward off sedition and those who plan it, and protect our people from tampering in order to realize the noble goal and set up our independent state with its capital in holy Jerusalem.

Amman Summoning of Ghawshah Reported

JN1304100095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0900 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to AFP today, Thursday, a senior Jordanian official said that the Jordanian authorities have summoned Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], who resides in Amman, because he has made press statements against another state. The Jordanian

official noted that Ghawshah, who carries Jordanian citizenship, was summoned to the office of Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, who warned him of his repeated violations of the law. The Jordanian official added that Ghawshah has no right to speak for Hamas, because this movement is not officially recognized in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Also, Ghawshah has no right to attack another state or insult its leader, a reference to the Palestinian National Authority and its chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

It should be noted that Hamas has no official representation in Jordan, but two of its members live in Amman: One of the two is Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas' official spokesman, and the other is Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas' representative in Jordan.

The Jordanian warning came in the wake of the Palestinian Authority's request to Jordan to stop Hamas statements of abuse and slander from Amman.

PA Spokesman: Gaza Hamas Disclaims Jordan's Hamas

NC1204175695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1618 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 112 Apr (MENA) A press spokesman of the Palestinian Authority (PA) has stated that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Gaza has denied knowledge of and responsibility for the statements released by the Hamas movement in Amman. In a statement that MENA received today from the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo, the spokesman said that the statements released by Hamas in Jordan have recently repeatedly condemned and assailed the Palestinian leadership. He said that the Palestinian leadership has received promises from Jordan that it will not allow such statements and will call those behind them to account.

The Palestinian spokesman pointed out that Jordan said that it would not agree to be a center for attacks on the Palestinian leadership or for instigation of acts of violence in the region, particularly after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. He added that Jordan affirmed through diplomatic and other channels that its policy is not to interfere in the internal affairs of the Palestinian people, the PLO, or the PA.

The spokesman stressed that this persistence by certain external parties in disturbing security in Palestine is the result of morbid thinking by certain people. This way of thinking has been left behind once and for all and no one can entertain dreams of tampering with our people's resources and their national and pan-Arab interests. He called on all honest people in Hamas and the Islamic Jihad to stick to their patriotism and religion, to safeguard the Palestinian newborn entity, to nip in the bud the sedition and its instigators, protect our people from the tamperers in order to achieve our noble goal, and to establish our independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Hamas, Gaza Opposition Groups on 'Arafat Moves

TA1204112795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
12 Apr 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by correspondent 'Amira Hess in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian Authority (PA) and police yesterday announced that all weapon holders in the Gaza Strip must submit requests for a license with the police within the next 30 days. After this period, starting 11 May, the police will confiscate all illegally held weapons. [passage omitted]

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], in a leaflet published yesterday, announced that "if the PA does not stop hunting our people, we will be forced to murder Palestinian policemen and attack senior PA officials. We are trying to avoid bloodshed and a civil war, but this is exactly where the PA is leading us, while dancing to Rabin's tune." [passage omitted]

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation for peace talks with Israel, leveled criticism at Fureh Abu-Middayn's announcement, saying he believes the PA's recent steps might cause an escalation and an outbreak of violence. [passage omitted]

In a speedy trial, 29-year-old Islamic Jihad activist 'Umar Salah was sentenced to life imprisonment for harming national security and assisting in the preparation of explosive charges. [passage omitted]

Legal officials in the Gaza Strip who were shocked to hear about the court's act yesterday expressed their protest to Attorney General Khalid al-Qidrah. This was reported by unofficial sources, who added that al-Qidrah told them to talk to 'Arafat. Until the trial was held, no one knew where the court sits. It was further made known that the judges who sat on this trial, all military men, are not the judges whose appointments had been announced some two months ago. [passage omitted]

Hamas Leader: 'Fighters' Will Never Give Up Weapons

TA1204151495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400
GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip say that their members will not accept the Palestinian Authority's demand to disarm. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in Gaza, said his people need arms to fight Israel, and if they hand in their weapons, Israel will succeed in apprehending them. He expressed doubt about the Palestinian police's ability to seize Hamas arms. The weapons are not concentrated in storerooms, al-Zahhar said. They are being held by the fighters, and they will never give them up.

Hamas Leader Suggests Plan To Defuse Tension With PA

TA1304111495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Isma'il Haniyah, one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip, has proposed a plan designed to defuse the tension between the Islamic organizations and the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that under his initiative, the PA will stop the arrests, release all detainees, and stop releasing official statements denouncing Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

Shaykh Haniyah proposes convening a high-level Hamas-PA meeting at which a national dialogue would be launched. The PA is requested to review the verdicts meted out to two Islamic Jihad activists.

'Arafat Advisers Devise Plan To Confront Hamas

TA1204181395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat has received a plan from his advisers on how to confront Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. In addition to the security struggle, the plan details ways to dry up the sources of financing of the Islamic opposition inside and outside the Gaza Strip.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that following is the gist of the plan, which has reached Jerusalem:

The plan advises the Palestinian Authority [PA] to seize control of the Hamas-controlled charity societies and economic institutions that deal with trade and agriculture. Another recommendation is to institute full supervision of the mosques and the sermons given there.

The PLO leader has called on the Jordanian authorities to prevent Hamas from disseminating leaflets and propaganda against him.

Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] analysts said that the rules of the game between the Islamic organizations and the PA in Gaza have been changed.

Sha'th on Gaza Situation, Combating 'Terrorism'

Sees 'Climate of Deep Disappointment'

BR1004150095 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 10 Apr 95 p 11

[Interview with Palestinian Authority Minister Nabil Sha'th by Umberto De Giovannangeli on 9 April; place

not given: "We Cannot Beat the Terrorists if the Occupation Continues"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We have arrested dozens of Jihad and Hamas activists and we have prevented nine suicide missions against Israel in the last few months. The Palestinian police has confiscated enormous quantities of weapons, many of which are of Israeli origin, from Hamas hideouts. There can be no doubt as to our commitment to fighting terrorism. But in these conditions they cannot expect us to achieve what not even major powers like the United States can manage: the complete neutralization of the armed Islamic groups." Thus began our talk with Nabil Sha'th, one of the ministers closest to Arafat in the Palestinian National Authority.

[De Giovannangeli] After the umpteenth Sunday of bloodshed in the Gaza Strip, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has called for a greater commitment to combating terrorism on the part of the Palestinian Authority.

[Sha'th] Rabin knows full well that we are doing everything within our power to curb the activities of the Hamas and Jihad militants. We can avert suicide attacks, as we have done several times over the last few months, but we definitely cannot guarantee that no more incidents like the ones that have occurred today will take place. No one can give such a guarantee, not even the most highly efficient armies or security services. We have no hesitation in deploring the latest anti-Israeli attacks, but the only way to combat the enemies of peace is to speed up the negotiations and implement the Oslo agreements at last. Too much time has already been wasted, and in the end this has merely played into the hands of Hamas. What is more, these attacks stress just how right are the Israelis who agree with the PLO as to the need to evacuate the Jewish settlements in Gaza, "a thorn in Israel's side," as Yosi Sarid (environment minister and Meretz leader—L'UNITA editor's note) has very appropriately described them.

[De Giovannangeli] What sort of atmosphere prevails in Gaza and the occupied territories?

[Sha'th] There is bewilderment, disappointment, and anger over the failure to implement a large number of the agreements reached with Israel and over the promises of aid that have never been kept by the international community. The majority of Palestinians, to quote what U.S. Vice-President Al Gore said in Gaza, "have not yet realized the dividends of peace." This climate of deep disappointment provides fertile ground for the recruitment campaign conducted by Hamas and the groups that oppose dialogue. We have to raise the quality and quantity of our efforts to stamp them out and render our police force more efficient, albeit in the knowledge that it is not on the military battlefield that we can win our fight against Hamas.

[De Giovannangeli] And where will the clash take place?

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[Sha'th] On the political front. This is why we are pressing Israel to make it possible to hold free elections in the Territories. These elections cannot be postponed any further without prejudice to the whole peace process. The credibility of the current Palestinian leadership, on which the polls can confer the power needed to shore up the policy of dialogue, is at stake. We appreciate Rabin's fears and we do not underrate the centrality of the security problem for Israel, but it is not by indefinitely sealing off the Territories and refusing to address the crucial issue of the settlements that an effective barrier will be built up against the enemies of peace in both camps.

[De Giovannangeli] The Israelis place the stress on the security issue, and the Palestinians reply with a call for the dismantling of the settlements in the Strip and the West Bank. Are the two demands irreconcilable?

[Sha'th] By no means; they complement one another. What we are denouncing now is a blatant violation by Israel of the deals concluded and signed in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo. The Israelis are trying to change the geographical facts on the ground while they are negotiating, and this is something that we cannot accept. Yitzhak Rabin is traveling along two roads that can never converge, and if he carries on like this he will provoke a crisis in the negotiations. We are ready to discuss without reservation the timing and procedures for the redeployment of Israeli troops on the West Bank, and the same applies to stepping up cooperation with Israel in the fight against terrorism, but all this will be pointless unless Rabin is capable of choosing between colonization and peace.

On 'Measures' Against Hamas, Islamic Jihad

JN1204153295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0945 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, PA official in charge of planning and international cooperation, by correspondent Yasir 'Atilah, in Gaza; date not given, from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority [PA]: Over the past couple of days, the security agencies in Gaza have taken strict measures against those behind the sabotage operations from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and the Islamic Jihad. The State Security Court, for the first time since it was established a few months ago, has passed sentences against some people. Do these measures signal a new approach in dealing with the Hamas Movement and the Islamic Jihad?

[Sha'th] As a matter of fact, these measures show more firmness in dealing with those who are planning to sabotage the peace process, or who take part in operations that seek to undermine the peace process and not comply with its terms. This destroys Palestinian national interests, not

only Israel's security. I think we have given a chance to those who have committed mistakes in the past to reverse their mistakes and to realize that the continuation of the peace process is in the interest of the Palestinian people. This process should be given a chance to achieve the objectives of the Palestinian people; namely, independence, freedom, and repatriation. However, it seems some people do not want to listen to this. Therefore, we must escalate these measures.

['Atilah] So we can conclude that the decisionmakers in the Palestinian Authority think the situation cannot go on like this because it threatens to destroy what has been built on the road to peace?

[Sha'th] That is definitely true.

['Atilah] Dr. Sha'th, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak met yesterday with the head of the Palestinian Authority, Yasir 'Arafat. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat took part in the meeting. What was the purpose of the meeting?

[Sha'th] It is part of ongoing meetings between President 'Arafat and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The two presidents usually meet whenever developments warrant an exchange of information. This is because Egypt plays a central role in the peace process and in supporting the Palestinian Authority. President Mubarak returned from an important trip to the United States, during which he discussed with the U.S. President and leaders the peace process. Mubarak and 'Arafat had met before President Mubarak's visit to the United States and agreed to meet again when President Mubarak returned. The two presidents exchanged information in this respect and about all the developments in the Palestinian arena.

['Atilah] Can we say the talks basically centered on the recent developments over the past two days in Gaza?

[Sha'th] No. The two presidents exchanged information. President Mubarak briefed President 'Arafat on his trip to the United States. President 'Arafat briefed President Mubarak on the developments in the Palestinian arena.

['Atilah] Some newspaper headlines noted that President Yasir 'Arafat has charged that Israel could spark a civil war in the Gaza Strip. Are these headlines true?

[Sha'th] The truth is that there are always misreadings in the press. What is meant is that Israel's policy of separation, closure, and exposing the Strip to difficult circumstances creates a situation under which it is difficult to deal with those who sabotage the peace process. Had the political situation been better, had there been continuing negotiations on the West Bank and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from it, and had there been the opening of passages and gateways, the Palestinian people would have largely supported all measures that seek to stop any security operations against the agreement. But the fact is that the difficult economic and political conditions make this more difficult for us and put us, sometimes, in a situation where the Palestinian people do not support the steps taken by the Authority. This is

not because they are against the peace process but because they oppose the closure measures and the other political measures taken by Israel.

[Atilah] Dr. Sha'th, you are scheduled to visit the Center for Studies and Research in Nabulus tomorrow to deliver a lecture. What is the topic of this lecture?

[Sha'th] The lecture is about the relationship between the Authority and the opposition. I think we should explain the nature of this relationship from the Authority's viewpoint. We are for full democracy, full freedom of expression, and for the participation of everybody in Palestinian decisionmaking. However, this should be done on the basis of commitment to the agreement we have signed for the peace process. This is because without the peace process, all the other measures and decisions are worthless. I think that the brothers in the opposition should understand this very well. No one can endorse a serious and historic decision, such as the peace process, and not commit himself to this decision. We fought in a manly manner and we made peace in a manly manner. If the opposition adheres to this stand the way we have a national commitment to it and the way our people are committed to it, then it has all democratic rights and liberties.

[Atilah] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Criticizes Anti-Peace Actions

JN1204143895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1300 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the National Authority [NA], has said that the actions the NA is taking in the Gaza Strip, including collecting arms and the recent trials of law violators, are stringent measures to deal with those who plan to torpedo the peace process or take part in operations aimed at wrecking this process.

In a press statement today, Dr. Sha'th said actions aimed at undermining the peace process harm the national interest as well as the interests and security of the Palestinian people.

Abu-Middayn on Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Dialogue
NC1304095095 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610
GMT 13 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] Has the dialogue between the Fatah Movement and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] turned into one of violence?

[Abu-Middayn] This is not a dialogue between factions. There is a Palestinian Authority [PA]. It is not acceptable to have a dual authority. In other words, when the majority represented in the PA decides something, the minority should understand that tampering with the lives of the Palestinian people is unacceptable.

What is happening today is a rectification of the situation. The situation is not as grave as some Western media try to depict it. I find no reason for all that clutter on things that happened in the past. There is seriousness this time. Dialogue has not ceased with all the brothers. We know that there is an arrest campaign to maintain order. We do not want to live in a lawless jungle and be at the mercy of whims. We do not want the lives of the Palestinian people to be at the mercy of a will coming from abroad. I disagree with the logic that blames everything on a conspiracy. But the leaderships of certain organizations abroad are playing the game of halting the march. But what is the alternative? Unless there is something else, we should give the present march a chance. Those who refuse to give the march a chance should step aside. We tried armed struggle before any of those organizations. You remember that in the late 1960's and early 1970's the Gaza Strip registered more struggle than all these organizations put together in the past five or 10 years.

[Al-Jundi] Allow me to say something here. You talk about giving a chance to the peace process and negotiations. A long time has passed and no real results have been achieved. This does not give hope to the factions that were originally opposed to the peace agreement.

[Abu-Middayn] I hope they will not give Israel the chance. Israel wants to break loose from the peace process. There are organizations within the Israeli Army just like the French Army's groups that opposed the liberation of Algeria in the 1950's. We do not want to give protection to the present policy of the Israeli Government. The situation in Gaza is not as bad as the media portrays. The problem is the loss of income by 50,000 or 60,000 workers. We lose \$3 million every day. The Gaza Strip is on the verge of an economic crisis; only God knows how bad it will be.

[Al-Jundi] This naturally reflects on the political situation.

[Abu-Middayn] Certainly. What is happening in Gaza is an attempt to protect the daily bread. It might not be for political reasons. The current measures are meant to protect the daily bread of the Palestinians against those who want to tamper with it.

I assure you that no citizen in Gaza will be able to pay the electric or water bill next month. Conditions in Gaza are heading toward a dreadful economic situation. In the absence of economic security, no political progress can be made. On the contrary, this gives Israel the chance to prevent us from going to the West Bank. They are trying to prevent the PA from taking control of the West Bank. They are also trying to give Rabin and other politicians

in Israel the chance to say: Look at the Gaza Strip; they failed there, how do you expect them to succeed here?

Israel left mines behind it. We do not approve of the settlements that have cost us and are costing them a lot. But the economic situation in Gaza is on the edge of an inferno. Israel refuses to let us bring food supplies from Egypt and seals off the Gaza Strip. Hence, we should not give Israel a chance to ruin the peace process.

Therefore, we say to our brothers: If you do not know what is happening, visit the Gaza Strip to see for yourselves. We can provide no jobs or bread. This will result in failure. There will be no alternative to failure. Brothers in the rejectionist organizations talk but have no programs or plans. All they can do is to say to themselves: We would rather destroy than let others build.

[Al-Jundi] Let us return to the starting point, the dialogue between the PA and the Palestinian factions. Is there a possibility of holding an expanded Palestinian conference involving all the organizations?

[Abu-Middayn] Dialogue has not ceased with brothers in all the organizations.

[Al-Jundi] What counts is for that dialogue to be productive.

[Abu-Middayn] They [Hamas] receive orders from their leadership in Amman in particular. Some of them live a relaxed life in palaces across the borders. They have no idea what is really happening. There are instructions and funds coming from abroad only to ruin the peace process and destroy the PA.

We, on the contrary, find no alternative to dialogue. But on what basis? We have to give the peace process a chance. This is the basis of dialogue. Over the past six or seven months, President 'Arafat was personally engaged in dialogue with the brothers in Hamas and other organizations. He eventually reached a dead end. They have their own plans and we have our clear position. But the Palestinian people's security is at stake.

[Al-Jundi] It is clear that speeding up the peace process and concluding the peaceful march, particularly in the Palestinian arena, is the only solution.

[Abu-Middayn] Definitely. Rabin's obstructive conduct was harmonious, but I do not say agreed, with the goals of some brothers. They set their goals out of ignorance while his obstruction was perceptive because he does not want to go ahead. However, there can be no peace in the Middle East without the Palestinian people. Mr. Rabin and many of those who share his sluggish attitude on the peace process have to realize that the only solution is to forge ahead. The Palestinian people in the occupied territories and Gaza and Jericho do not feel that they achieved much. They do not feel that Israel is sincere in the peace process or that their conditions have improved. On the contrary, they have deteriorated. Israel sought to achieve this and succeeded in making peace lose its credibility.

We have to move on to the stage of the final solution directly. Israel refuses to redeploy its troops in the West Bank and also refuses to hold elections, release detainees, or open safety pathways between Gaza and the West Bank. Israel is responsible for all that. Even the two incidents that occurred in Gaza recently were Israel's responsibility. When it leaves behind bombs in the form of settlements housing no more than 100 persons and protected by hundreds of soldiers, what does it expect? Neither Israel nor the PA can protect settlers whose presence as such is a provocative act.

[Al-Jundi] With the hope of reaching a final solution for this issue and to achieve stability in the Gaza Strip, we conclude our dialogue with Mr. Abu-Middayn.

[Abu-Middayn] Thank you.

Radio Reports 'Text' of Authority Arms Ban Statement

JN1204204895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1730 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source has stated that the Palestinian police will collect firearms, explosives, and poisonous gases, and will ban their unlicensed sale, production, or import as stipulated by the law and in accordance with Decree No. 431 of March 1956 issued by the general administrative ruler for the region under the supervision of the Egyptian forces in Palestine with respect to explosives and their likes, firearms, all types of ammunitions, and the military forces properties [muta'alaqat].

The following is the text of the statement:

Article 1: It is completely prohibited to possess or acquire explosives, explosive devices, or poisonous gases without a licence issued by the competent authorities. The term explosives covers all explosive or incendiary material, and any material that can be used in the fabrication of explosives, and any apparatus, instrument, or material, or anything that is specially prepared to be used in their production.

The term explosive devices cover bombs, hand grenades, and other explosive or incendiary material and instruments, as well as fuses, fireworks, and other material or instruments used to ignite the device or to trigger the explosion, as well as incendiary and color bullets [alfashak al-muhriq wa al-mulawwan].

The term poisonous gases cover the asphyxiating gases or tear gases, other types of gases that are harmful to one's health, liquid or solid preparations that can be transformed into one of the referent types of gases, as well as the material prepared for use in their production.

Article 2: The possession or acquiring of firearms and ammunitions of all types is completely prohibited without a license issued by the competent authorities.

The term firearms covers all firearms of any kind, whether cannon, machine guns, guns [al-mushakhshannah], and all types of pistols. This term also covers the parts of firearms but does not cover hunting or ornamental weapons. Ornamental weapons cover all firearms that are not [word indistinct] and are not designed to fire bullets. Ornamental weapons also mean old and luxurious weapons which are unsuitable for use and which are specially adorned with gold or silver, or artistically carved.

Article 3: Whoever is held in to be in possession of or acquiring directly or through other persons unlicensed explosives, explosive devices, or toxic gas mentioned in Article 1 of this order shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years. Whoever is found in possession of or acquiring directly or through other persons unlicensed firearms or ammunition mentioned in Article 2 of this order shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years and a fine of no more than 300 pounds or either of the two penalties. If the held firearms or ammunition belong to the military forces, the maximum penalty decided in this paragraph shall be doubled. Firearms or ammunition shall be regarded as belonging to the military forces if they are used by the Egyptian Army, the Palestine Liberation Army, one of the allied Arab armies, the National Guard Forces, or the National Police.

Article 4: The penalties approved in Article 3 of this order shall apply to whoever imports, manufactures, sells, or acquires for somebody else explosives, toxic gases, firearms, or ammunition without a license issued by competent authorities.

Article 5: Stealing of firearms, ammunition, explosives, and the like that belong to the military forces shall be punishable by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 15 years. The penalty shall be life in prison if the crime is committed at night, by force, under the threat of weapons, or by any way of robbery listed in Article 294 of the Palestinian Penal Code of 1936.

Article 6: Whoever is held in illegal possession of money, equipment, tasks, appointments, oil, or gasoline belonging to the military forces shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years.

Article 7: In all cases, it shall be decided to confiscate the seized items and they shall be handed to the concerned military forces if the items belong to them.

Article 8: To be exempted from punishment are those who possess explosives, explosive devices, toxic gases, firearms, and ammunition contrary to the provisions of this order if they surrender those items to the police station in their places of residence within a period of one month as of the date this order goes into effect. This exemption shall not apply to whoever was held for possession or acquiring any of the above-mentioned items without a license before this order went into effect.

Article 9: Special courts shall exclusively be responsible for deciding on the crimes that contravene the provisions of this order. Regular courts shall continue to look into the cases they are considering at the time this order goes into effect.

Article 10. Orders No. 11, 18, 34, 65, 99, 105, 136, 212, 309, and all that contravenes this order shall be abolished. This order shall be effective as of the date of its publication in the Palestinian official gazette.

Issued in Gaza on 3 March [as heard] 1995.

Public Opinion Said Against Hamas, Islamic Jihad Arrests

TAI304055595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Palestinian police announced last night that as of today, arms and explosive materials held by residents without a permit will be confiscated. The statement says the punishment will be up to 10 years in prison, but Palestinian Gaza police commander Ghazi al-Jabali said residents have a month to hand in the illegal arms before facing a prison term.

Meanwhile, though, reports from Gaza say the wave of arrests of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists has stopped. In the latest crackdown, not one fugitive from the military wings of the organizations has been captured. From Gaza the word is that the arrests have been stopped because Palestinian public opinion does not support the action. Over 20 wanted activists in the Gaza Strip belong to the hard core of terrorists planning attacks against Israelis.

[A report by Yoni Ben-Menahem on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 13 April adds that "the Palestinian police have arrested 250 people so far, 10 of whom were released following brief questioning."

[Ben-Menahem further reports: "Only two Islamic Jihad activists have been tried in the special state security court so far, and none from Hamas. Furthermore, radical Islamic activists have not been stripped of their weapons."

[The report adds that "the Palestinian Authority has informed the Gaza chapter of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine that their Palestinian Prisoner Day rallies would be banned. The organization was told that the Palestinian Prisoner Day belongs to all the Palestinian factions and should be marked by participation in official ceremonies staged by the Palestinian Authority on 17 April."]

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has called on King Husayn to close down Hamas operations in Jordan. 'Arafat's office in Gaza says it's high time that Jordan stops Hamas from issuing orders and declarations from the Jordanian capital, Amman. 'Arafat also accuses Hamas of using Jordanian territory for organizing and financing its terrorist activities. [passage omitted]

Algeria

President Continues 'Consultations' With Groups

Receives HAMAS Delegation

LD1304131695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A few days from now, the curtain will be dropped on the bilateral consultations between the presidency, parties, and organizations on the presidential elections and the aspects associated with them. [passage omitted]

In continuation of his meetings, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, head of state, received today at the presidency a delegation from Harakat al-Mujtama al-Islami [HAMAS] led by its leader Cheikh Mahfoud Nahna. [passage omitted]

Colleague Noureddine Mousadek, who is following up on the presidency's meeting with HAMAS, provides us with this report:

[Mousadek] The HAMAS delegation did not miss the opportunity this time and travelled to Mouradia today for a meeting with the Head of State Liamine Zeroual. This is considered the penultimate meeting in the series of bilateral meetings on the file of the presidential elections.

After it missed a similar appointment about two weeks ago for tactical reasons, HAMAS, under the chairmanship of its leader Mahfoud Nahna, responded to the head of state's invitation. It is a response which different circles interpret as being an element added to the positive indicators available so far in the political arena.

HAMAS's making up for time did not remove all the media questions, but, from the same angle, i.e. from the media angle, HAMAS's presence at the presidency is noted with great delay, and listed within the methodology of waiting adopted by the movement towards the consultations between the head of state and the parties and organizations.

Proceeding from this methodology, the first information indicates that Mahfoud Nahna was carrying today to the consultation table a cocktail of proposals in his briefcase prepared by the movement. It is a cocktail that unites the different points proposed earlier by the political parties in collective or unilateral memorandums.

Meets With Democratic Movement

LD1204185495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1700 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of the bilateral consultations, Liamine Zeroual, the state president, today received at the presidency a delegation of the Democratic Movement for the Renewal of Algeria, led by Abdelmajid Amirat, its president. Following the

meeting, Mr. Amirat said that the discussion was held in a brotherly atmosphere, and we have decided to leave the door to dialogue open.

A statement on the movement's stance on the presidential elections is premature, Amirat said, because it is still awaiting answers to some questions which it has posed to the presidency.

On halting the violence, the president of the Democratic Movement for the Renewal of Algeria said: The president told us that all measures will be taken to halt the violence. For our part, we have asked that there should be another national conference, organized by the authorities and by the opposition.

Further on al-Nahdah Plan To 'Resolve Crisis'

JN1204172795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
10 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil in London]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual yesterday reiterated his commitment to holding presidential elections before the end of the year. The president has received a three-phase plan from the Islamic al-Nahdah movement, led by Shaykh Abdallah Jaballah, to resolve the crisis. The plan agrees to hold presidential elections this year. This has been unanimously rejected by the opposition parties on more than one occasion. The al-Nahdah plan also states that the authorities should release the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and restore its legal status, provided that the FIS issues an appeal to stop the confrontations and declares a comprehensive truce.

AL-HAYAH asked Shaykh Jaballah by phone about the outcome of his meeting with Zeroual. He said the meeting with the head of state resulted in the following:

1. The president promised to study thoroughly the letter presented by the al-Nahdah movement and to call me for another meeting to discuss his observations on the letter.
2. He promised us to continue the dialogue to reach a comprehensive political solution to the crisis.
3. There was emphasis that the crisis is very complicated and that it should be resolved with the participation of all political forces.

Jaballah went on to say: The view presented by al-Nahdah to resolve the crisis is methodical, phased out, and balanced. He added that the Algerian president insisted on holding the presidential elections before the end of the year. We told him that the view we have presented provides all the objective conditions that allow for holding fair and free presidential elections before the end of this year, Jaballah added. The basic thing is that the president of the state has promised to study our proposals and contact us to meet again and discuss his reply.

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Asked if he asked Zeroual to allow the FIS or some of its leaders to take part in a meeting of opposition parties in Algeria, Jaballah said: We have proposed to Zeroual organizing a national meeting between the authority and the opposition to agree on a way to resolve the crisis. Jaballah also spoke about the possibility of organizing a national meeting for the parties. The authority does not oppose such a meeting. Asked if this means that the FIS will take part in the meeting, he said: We did not specifically discuss this with the head of state. Our letter includes suggestions in this regard and the head of state has promised to study them. [passage omitted]

Workers Party Official Criticizes Regime

LD1204162795 Paris LCI Television in French 0913
GMT 12 Apr 95

[Interview with Louisa Hannoun, secretary general of the Workers Party, by Pierre-Luc Seguillon in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Seguillon] Let us talk about Algeria again because the tragic situation in that country raises the issue of fundamentalism. It raises it concretely; it raises it near us; we are all affected in one way or another; and this problem is absent from the debate of the French electoral campaign. Let us talk about it again. [passage omitted]

Today's debate is of a different kind, between an Algerian woman, Louisa Hannoun, who lives in Algeria and who is visiting Paris. She is the spokeswoman [as heard] of the Workers Party, a party which, together with [Hocine] Ait Ahmed's party [FFS, Socialist Forces Front], the FLN [National Liberation Front], and other democratic parties, has signed the Rome platform with the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] on—can you remind me of the date?

[Hannoun] On 13 January.

[Seguillon] On 13 January. We also have a French intellectual, Bernard-Henri Levy. [passage omitted]

[Seguillon] Louisa Hannoun, how do you react to this?

[Hannoun] I do not agree at all, and I would like to put the record straight. I believe that the problem in Algeria is first and foremost the fact that there is an atrocious war which has been going on for four years, a war which was hidden for three years, which was fought by totalitarian authorities following a military coup after the authorities themselves stopped the electoral process which they had declared open, honest, and democratic, and which they questioned because it did not allow them to survive and to stay in power.

The FIS had taken part in these elections. It had made that compromise because its leaders were in prison. Some of its members had boycotted the elections because they were a blatant trap—it was an obvious one. Since then, we have been living in terror in Algeria. I live

in Algeria, but I do not lead a normal life—we cannot say that someone can lead a normal life. Everyone faces death threats, arrests, and kidnappings at any time. As you know, villages have been razed in the country—entire villages, that is to say that collective responsibility exists; it is practiced [as heard]. I cannot say that I live like a rat....

[Seguillon] May I interrupt you: [what do you mean] when you say collective responsibility?

[Hannoun] That is to say that they put under arrest... [pauses] a family can be massacred, there are reprisals against a brother because his brother could not be found, against a family because their son is an Islamist. These are barbaric practices. Women have been arrested because their husbands were not there. Women have been kidnapped—wives of Islamists, or considered Islamists themselves.

I live in difficult conditions, but I am the leader of a party. In that framework, I have responsibilities to meet. I visit the headquarters of my party. I live in my home, a small flat. Of course I move about. Of course I have to live somewhere else from time to time, but I sometimes go to bookshops and to the market, too, and I meet militants and the Algerian press—not the heavy media, as we call them at home, because there has been a total boycott of some political parties since the coup, in particular those parties which advocate a peaceful solution, not war, not eradication. So, of course, there is a danger, but each of us has his or her own approach. I have never received death threats from Islamists, whoever they may be: neither from the GIA [Armed Islamic Group], nor from the MIA [Armed Islamist Movement], but I can tell you that I started receiving death threats by mail and by telephone from the time when President Boudiaf was assassinated. They did not come from Islamists. They came from anonymous people, from bizarre committees, and so on.

[Seguillon] But you agree that some people have received death threats—I am thinking of Khalida Messaoudi—from the GIA or the FIS?

[Hannoun] Certainly, certainly, of course, there are armed groups, this is clear. There are armed groups which are the result of the fact that the electoral process was stopped, of unparalleled repression, of the dissolution of a political party, of the closing down of the political field for everyone, for all Algerians. When you close down the political field, when there is no confrontation of ideas any longer, the language of weapons takes over.

[Seguillon] The question is—if we take it from what Bernard-Henri Levy said earlier—the following: Is the situation the way it is because of the interruption of the democratic process as you described it, or because of the very ideology advocated by the FIS and described just now by Bernard-Henri Levy. I would like to know how you react to this.

[Hannoun] Let us be serious. There is fundamentalism in France, in Germany, in the United States, in Algeria. Everywhere. There are various forms of fundamentalism, there is not only Islamist fundamentalism. The FIS is a party which used to be legal. When it was legal, we were at least able to point our fingers at the leaders of the party when crimes were committed. We were able to confront our ideas, to make accusations. Crimes were committed, just like crimes are committed in France and everywhere else, but, for the first time, there were multi-party elections which were democratic, because their aim was to keep the same regime in place. But the results were such that these authorities had to go. Unfortunately... [pauses] what happened? When you are told that the FIS... [pauses] I listened to L'Heure de Verite ["The Hour of Truth," in which feminist and political activist Khalida Messaoudi was the guest on 9 April] the other day. I think it is quite extraordinary to twist the truth like that when we know that the FIS took part in the elections. What was its....

[Seguillon, interrupting] L'Heure de Verite, that is, Khalida Messaoudi.

[Hannoun] Yes... [pauses] what was its intention? I am not in a position to tell, I am not a mind-reader. But it has accepted the elections; it took part in them. It is not the one which questioned the electoral process. The authorities did, together with a tiny minority which went out on the streets calling on the Army to get down [as heard]. From then on, raise the problem in terms of a secular republic... [pauses] As for us, we support a republic, that is, a republic guaranteeing rights and equality for all. We support the separation between political matters and religious affairs. However, Algeria has a state religion. We must bear this in mind. Islam has been the state religion since independence.

[Seguillon] Do you agree with that?

[Hannoun] Not at all. I support the separation between political matters and religious affairs, I have already said this. We yearn for democracy. Democracy is not only one individual or one tiny minority dictating their law. Indeed, regarding fundamentalism....

[Seguillon, interrupting] I would like....

[Hannoun] No, this will be my last sentence. There is fundamentalism. Of course there is fundamentalism in Algeria, but first and foremost there is a political movement. There is a point of view I do not share, that of the FIS, but I recognize it as a party. Now I will tell you this. There is a kind of fundamentalism which is even more dangerous, which has appeared in Algeria, that of that tiny minority which encourages repression and war as long as its privileges are preserved and which believes that democracy means the right for them to gain power, including with the use of weapons. [passage omitted]

[Seguillon] What do you expect from France?

[Hannoun] Well, France. I think that it should be possible for the French people to show solidarity.

[Seguillon] From the new president?

[Hannoun] I think that the assistance which can be given to Algeria, I mean, the Algerian people, is to allow... [pauses] to demand that the Algerian people are able to define themselves, are able to exercise their sovereignty, are able to express themselves and to have legitimate institutions, that the war should end, that the war should end, of course, because any solution which goes above the heads of the Algerian people will never be viable, just like in all other countries.

Minister Outlines Advantages for Investors

LD1004135095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in French 1955 GMT 9 Apr 95

[Interview with Redha Hamiani, minister of small and medium-sized enterprises, by program announcer Hocine Mezali and guest interviewers Mustapha Khelifi and Leila Benani in the studio; from the "Perspectives" program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mezali] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We are here with you for our second "Perspectives" program on Algerian TV. For the second time we are inviting the minister of small and medium-sized enterprises of the Mokdad Sifi government in Algeria. [passage omitted]

[Hamiani] We are establishing new rules, more encouraging than the previous ones. We want to open our doors now, to show those people in the world who make decisions that Algeria is opening up to the international economy, that we have resources, assets, a place, a market, which deserves to be developed.

The rather special situation we are experiencing does not always enable us to play solely on the economic level. But if for the moment we just look at that aspect of things, what do we see? That Algeria is the keystone of the Maghreb. It is one or two hours away from the consumer centers of Europe, that the fact of having devalued our currency gives us an extraordinary comparative advantage. [passage omitted]

As for the superstructure, or the rules. We have gotten rid of the constraints. Investment is free. We have made the procedures more flexible. [passage omitted]

In broad outline, the investment code gives guarantees and advantages.

As far as the guarantees are concerned, what are we telling our foreign partners? The first thing we are saying is that we are no longer distinguishing between residents and nonresidents. Both categories have the same rights and the same obligations. [passage omitted] The second guarantee is that we are no longer talking of nationalization. That has been put away, the idea of implementing

socialism is over and done with, and we are guaranteeing the private ownership of the means of production.

The third important guarantee for investors is convertibility with regard to what they earn here, the possibility of exporting the profits of an investment. Here, too, we wanted to get directly to the heart of the problem: There is no longer any need to ask for permission in advance. Once you have made a profit here, via a company or some activity, the simple payment by banker's order from a commercial bank will transfer your money in a maximum of two months.

The final guarantee we are giving to businessmen investing here is the possibility of going to international arbitration should there be disputes between them and the Algerian administration or an Algerian enterprise.

So, as far as guarantees are concerned, we are fully in line with comparable arrangements in similar countries. As far as advantages are concerned, without going into detail, they are tax exemptions: no customs duties, no taxes for a certain number of years, which enables investors to do their business and make profits before paying a minimum of tax. We have greatly reduced the tax burden. The tax burden is comparable with what happens in France. [passage omitted]

We want Algeria to be competitive and open to competition. It is true that the previous generation used to invest and be sure that it could market its output, even if it was mediocre, be sure that it could manufacture and sell at any price. We are no longer guaranteeing this. We are letting the market decide, as they say. In other words, consumers will decide if they will buy this or that product that has been made for them, or if they prefer a foreign product competing with it.

Of course we want to protect the output of our country with customs barriers and via the tax system. But there is perhaps now a new approach to investment because people believe that the market is no longer protected in the way it was, that there is a commercial risk, that they have to add something to the economy, that management is going to be much more difficult than it was. [passage omitted]

The main option we have taken, as politicians in power—since we don't want to destroy our production apparatus as has happened in the countries of Eastern Europe, we don't want to sell it off cheap—we don't want to stop, we want to develop, be progressive, and gradual. We are taking inspiration from the methods used around us—in eastern Europe, Latin America, commitments in France and Italy. We want to disengage the state from its activities or status as a direct producer of goods and services. [passage omitted]

We can see a framework hinging on three sectors. One sector where the state will remain present, by definition, because it is regarded as strategic: hydrocarbons, certainly; perhaps also steel production, perhaps vehicle

manufacturing. I don't have the exact list; I think it has to be thought about and discussions have to be held.

The second sector is one where the state will be involved, whether with a minority or majority stake, with capital to defend via financial companies, holdings, funds and so on, not the state directly.

The third sector is where the state is not involved, and the disengagement is total, where it has to get out of the management: this is tourism, transport, distribution, the BTPH [expansion not known] [passage omitted]

[Benani] There is talk of the private debt being bought by Algerian investors, and it is also said that the nominal value of the private debt is at its lowest level. What do you think of this?

[Hamiani] The first question: I think these financial groups know what they are doing, since evidently for some time the Algerian signature has been a very good one. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, there are subjective elements—the media campaign which regards Algeria as being on the edge of civil war, which regards us as being in a state of bloody chaos, which is completely false—which are exploited by a number of media outlets to discredit this way of seeing things. But if we remember the objective criteria, the Algerian debt is a quality debt, and whether it is bought by Algerian entrepreneurs or financiers or by others they will have made a wise choice. [passage omitted]

Minister on Industrial Restructuring, IMF Loans LD1204174395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1102 GMT on 12 April broadcasts a 58-minute interview with Mourad Benachenhou, minister of industrial restructuring and partnership, from the weekly "Transformations" program. He talks about the principles and aims of industrial restructuring, redundancy, and privatization. He reviews government policy on this issue, and praises the effects of the agreement with the IMF. He says that the aims of industrial restructuring are increasing the efficiency of production, consolidating economic stability, and restoring the economy.

On improving the management of the economic and industrial institutions he says that many of the mistakes of the past 32 years have been rectified through lifting controls on prices, facilitating supplies to these institutions of their essential needs, and giving the management the right to deal directly with the work force. The development of an institution depends on the efficient use of all its financial, human, and material resources. The human resources are very important for achieving growth and for the success of the establishment, he adds.

He says that security of employment stems from the good management of the establishment and from the values of the society. Management should try to redeploy

the worker and retrain him. Redundancy is a last resort. After redundancy the worker is entitled to get his full salary for three months, and then to get unemployment benefit. The growth of private small and medium establishments will absorb the extra work force.

On privatization he says that air and maritime transportation cannot be privatized, mechanical industries can be privatized in the future, but textile and service industries can be privatized now. On the general economic performance of Algeria last year, he says that there was an improvement in growth, a reduction in inflation, and a reduction of the deficit.

Responding to criticism that the Restructuring Ministry's funds were wasted on buying consumption goods, he says that the funds were spent according to the directives of the Central Bank and that criticism was based on superficial and shallow analysis of the situation. On the subject of the future signing of an agreement on extended credit facilities, the minister says that future agreements will be exactly the same as old agreements except in their duration. The old agreements were for one year and the new agreement is for three years.

He adds that Algeria must continue with its economic reforms to eradicate inflation, improve its exploitation of its raw materials, and eradicate unemployment. In reply to a question about the exact figures of the Algerian loans from the IMF, the minister says he does not have the exact figures, but: "The IMF has given us \$1 billion and the World Bank, together with other creditors, gave us \$350 million. There are other financial resources which we received from the EU, which are estimated at \$180 million. There are other international establishments which gave us money. Generally speaking, we can say that, because of the signing of the first agreement with the IMF, Algeria has covered the deficit which was expected at the beginning of 1994 and was able to cover all its financial needs and to service its debts."

'Terrorist' Aouiche Mohamed Sentenced in Absentia

LD1204172895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The criminal court in Oran has passed a 20 year enforceable prison sentence on the terrorist Aouiche Mohamed. The convict is a dangerous terrorist, and has been sentenced in absentia. The security forces are still looking for him.

Egypt

Proposed 'Guarantees' to Nonnuclear States Faulted

Musa Calls UN Resolution 'Disappointing'

NC1204145295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that he

conveyed a message from Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to President Husni Mubarak.

After a meeting with President Mubarak, Musa said he had forwarded to Mubarak a report on the outcome of the Egyptian-Algerian Joint Committee meetings during which the consolidation of bilateral relations was discussed.

He added that he also forwarded to President Mubarak a report on the Mediterranean Forum meetings that were held recently in Sainte-Maxime in France and his contacts with foreign ministers on the sidelines of the conference and the contacts he held in Spain.

Commenting on the Mediterranean Forum meetings, Musa said the participants discussed Mediterranean, Arab, and European relations within the framework of the forum meetings and the EU-initiated Barcelona conference due to be held in November with the 15 EU member states and the Mediterranean countries. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the UN Security Council resolution to support the security of nonnuclear countries, Musa said it was a weak resolution and did not tackle the core of the issue. Therefore, he added, the speech delivered by Egypt's permanent envoy to the United Nations completely reflects the Egyptian stance that we are not happy with this resolution because it does not move forward.

Replying to a question on some countries' requests to join the Mediterranean Forum, Musa explained that it was agreed to maintain the current 11-member status of the forum. Membership of other countries will be discussed by senior officials in the future and the outcome will be forwarded to the meeting to be held in Italy next year. This, he noted, means no decision has been made on the submitted requests.

Answering a question on the development of Egypt's stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, he said that there is nothing new about this issue and that there are contacts with Israel. He described the Security Council's resolution supporting the security of nonnuclear countries as disappointing for these countries' hopes.

Daily Terms Proposal 'Superficial'

NC1304080895 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Apr 95 p 8

[From the "Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Hollow Guarantees"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States might have succeeded in obtaining enough votes to ensure the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The campaign launched by Egypt might not change the Israeli stance on the treaty and we will most probably not be surprised when most of the Arab countries rush to sign it unconditionally. But it is to Egypt's credit that it has at least warned against continuing a situation when one

country alone possesses nuclear weapons not subjected to any control, as this will encourage other countries to follow the same route regardless of any guarantees laid down by the superpowers or any restrictions on nuclear technology and its transfer. Such restrictions might make them look for new armament systems to defend themselves.

Even if the Arabs turn a blind eye to the NPT issue and Israel's evasiveness, the latter was eager to remind us, the United States, and the nuclear countries that it can always do what it wants and that it has the means for inflicting crushing blows on the Arabs so that they have no choice but to accept a peace dictated by it. It was no coincidence when Israel announced in the midst of the argument over the NPT that it had launched a spy satellite that covers Syria, Iraq, and Iran.

This satellite provides Israel with accurate information about these countries and thus it will have no need for the information supplied by its U.S. ally. Additionally, the successful launch of a rocket, which military experts believe is capable of carrying nuclear weapons, is in itself a military demonstration of Israel's overwhelming superiority, not only in the field of offensive weapons but also in those of research, technology, and advanced means of deterrence.

While the U.S. talks about the need to impose controls on Iran's armaments without evidence to prove these allegations, evidence is piling up that Israel has succeeded in completing the elements of both its offensive and defensive nuclear superiority with U.S. approval and blessings.

This reason explains the doubts expressed by Egypt over the five superpowers' draft resolution to give some guarantees to the nonnuclear countries. Egypt described this resolution as superficial and valueless.

It can be said that this resolution is meant to fool the nonnuclear countries and preoccupy them with hollow guarantees, especially when it talks about extending medical, scientific, and technical aid to nonnuclear countries that come under nuclear attack or threat. This means that these countries offer to extend humanitarian aid to save the victims after the act has been committed and the nuclear attack carried out but not to punish the aggressor country. This shows the importance of the battle waged by Egypt, even if some believe that it is fighting windmills. This battle touches the core of Egypt's and the Arab countries' security and has to be fought regardless of the outcome or the price.

Al-Sharif Relates Mubarak's Remarks to Military
NC1204180095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with commanders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and men of the Central Military Region this afternoon.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said after the meeting that President Mubarak saluted the Egyptian Armed Forces' officers and men, expressing appreciation and pride in them and praising the Armed Forces vanguards who performed a magnificent and honorable role in keeping peace in Somalia.

President Mubarak noted that these forces returned in April, which marks the liberation anniversary of the entire Sinai land on 25 April 1989. The president said the Egyptian land was liberated with the glorious October victory, that victory was achieved by the sacrifices of the Egyptian armed forces personnel, and that it is the armed forces that protect the process of development, democracy, and peace.

Al-Sharif said that during his meeting with the Central Region's commanders, officers, and men, President Mubarak discussed a number of domestic and foreign issues.

On Egypt's economic situation, President Mubarak said we must bear its burdens and noted that we had to face difficulties to reform the Egyptian economic structure and face the changes in Egyptian society as part of the world community.

The president referred to the population increase, world economic changes, the rise in basic and intermediate commodity prices on the international level, agricultural development, the development of the industrial community, and world developments, which have all created a new reality.

President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt has covered a long distance toward economic reform, that the Egyptian economy has progressed, that it is experiencing numerous positive developments, and that it has passed the difficult phase. He said that newspaper reports about new burdens and price hikes are untrue. He added that the economy and reform are progressing with minimum burdens on the citizens.

President Mubarak noted that any cooperation with world institutions is in Egypt's interest, that Egypt acts in line with the interest of its economy and citizens, and that Egypt has experts and economists who are aware of all burdens and that they realize the positive elements and avoid the negative ones.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak discussed the process of the comprehensive and continuous development in Egypt during the first, second, and third development plans. He noted that the fourth investment plan which is now being submitted to the People's Assembly has taken the interest in upper Egypt into consideration.

The president referred to the decisions to attract investment capital in Upper Egypt governorates to create new jobs and open the horizon for development in these areas.

He also referred to the industrial areas now under construction with complete utilities designed to set up projects and said that land prices are relinquished when such projects are completed. He noted that these projects enjoy all the facilities provided by the investment law. This is in addition to development, new cities, and road projects in Egypt and the improvement of services and utilities.

On foreign policy, al-Sharif said President Mubarak discussed in his meeting today the outcome of his tours of the United States and Japan. He added that these visits were accompanied by campaigns that assumed various forms aimed at distorting Egypt's image, its economic performance, and stability.

The president explained that such limited campaigns do not affect our policies and decisions, nor do they create any sensitivity for us in decisionmaking because the Egyptian decision stems from a public will and seeks Egypt's interests first and foremost.

The president said that during his visit to the United States, many important world issues were discussed. Primary among these were the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the Middle East peace process, as well as other secondary issues, U.S. aid to Egypt, and stability in the region.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak stressed Egypt's basic commitment to its interests. He noted that in all his meetings with U.S. officials during his five-day visit to the United States, which began on 1 April, he was anxious to present all topical issues and to explain Egypt's views on them. He emphasized that all discussions and dialogues were characterized by clarity, frankness, and mutual respect.

President Mubarak pointed to the discussions held on U.S. aid, noting that this aid is in the interests of both countries and serves peace and stability in the region. He said that Egypt, as he repeatedly declared, does not expect the aid to continue indefinitely. He emphasized that the United States should give the same treatment to the other countries in the region.

Discussing the Egyptian economy, al-Sharif said that President Mubarak explained the facts about the economic reform policy, saying it is based on studies and sound assessment of the situation.

Regarding peace, President Mubarak noted the progress that has been made on the various tracks, notably the signing of agreements between the Israelis and Palestinians and between Jordan and Israel. Mubarak underlined that in spite of all this progress the Palestinian issue remains the basic problem. He said that if the Israelis and Palestinians fail to implement the Declaration of Principles agreement and to achieve its goals, they will give the enemies of peace a chance. He pointed out that failure on the Palestinian track will affect all other tracks.

Al-Sharif further said that President Mubarak emphasized the seriousness of the measures blockading the Gaza Strip and of failure of the donor nations to offer aid, saying that this will create a serious situation, frustrate the Palestinians and drive them to extremism, and will discredit peace. President Mubarak noted that there are extremists among the Palestinians seeking to raise generations on erroneous ideas and to brainwash them. He warned that unless there are quick moves to hold the self-rule elections and steps are taken to ensure Israeli withdrawal from certain areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, peace with the Palestinians will face a crisis.

President Mubarak called on all parties to realize this fact, make peace their goal, and to bypass all subversive acts and attempts by the enemies of peace so that the Palestinian Authority may play its role and foil the schemes of the enemies of peace in the region. He said that the subversive acts will not stop unless peace is established. He said that everyone should understand that a solution on the Palestinian track is the cornerstone for achieving progress on the other tracks. He noted that the Israelis and Palestinians should cooperate in resisting the acts of sabotage and terrorism and forge ahead to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Discussing the issue of extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, al-Sharif said that President Mubarak expounded on Egypt's stance since 1968 and the plan that Egypt proposed in the 1980's to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons, and his initiative of 1990 which he declared in Iraq when he called for making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. President Mubarak pointed out that the position of Egypt and the international community was imposed by the circumstances calling for the indefinite or definite extension of the NPT or the other proposed alternatives. He said that the NPT member states are not only called upon to sign, but also to give their views and vote on the alternatives that will be proposed. He stressed that Egypt will not withdraw from the NPT but will continue to do all it can until Israel joins the NPT to preserve security and stability in this part of the world and to maintain the interests, security, and stability of all countries of the region.

The information minister said President Mubarak asked: How do I agree on an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty while Israel has not joined it? He noted that there is no problem between Egypt and the United States on the treaty, but the problem is Israel's nuclear program which is a problem between Egypt and Israel. He said: If we do not reach a serious and acceptable equation with Israel, we will not agree to an indefinite renewal. Studies are under way to define our position on the matter.

President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt's stand stems from the will of its people and that Egypt has its dignity and does not accept a decision imposed on it or any threat, nor does it submit to any practices and attempts to harm or defame it.

The president said: For the record of history and truth we will never be pressured. We make our decisions, which are imposed by the people's opinion. The people have chosen me and my resolutions are always in the interest of this people. This does not mean that I should impose an opinion contradicting that of the greater majority, which I respect and take into consideration.

President Mubarak said the war of rumors and threats have no place in decisionmaking circles.

On his visit to Japan, his excellency clarified the outcome of this trip, which opened the door to the Japanese capitals' investments, noting that investment is the most beneficial and suitable for Egypt, not loans. He added that we must know that loans have a ceiling which we must not exceed to avoid the difficult situations that Egypt suffered in 1990/91.

The information minister said President Mubarak noted during the meeting that loans are obtained by a law passed by the People's Assembly, which considers the fact that such loans should be designated for vital national projects to serve the society's interests. As regards the loans allocated for establishing projects or financing investment projects, there is a commitment that the project should be able to pay installments and interest without drawing from the state budget.

The president explained the cooperation between Egypt and Japan in setting up a number of projects in various sectors, such as agriculture, irrigation, sewage, small industries, and others, noting that Japan is an economic power that has its effect and role.

The president concluded his remarks by asserting the importance of establishing friendly relations, exchanging views, and dealing with the outside world to benefit the domestic economic performance and development in Egypt. He said today's world requires awareness to follow up the quick, consecutive changes dictated by the communications revolution and that no country can live politically, economically, and culturally separated from the world.

'Important' Results of Mubarak's U.S. Trip Outlined

NC1304080595 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Apr 95
p 8

[From the "Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The Only Concession"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The dispute over the nuclear issue and the controversy over the need for a solution guaranteeing that Israel will not be excepted from complying with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] dominated President Mubarak's talks in Washington. Numerous other issues were set aside as part of the two countries' desire to maintain understanding and friendship based on trust and mutual interests.

Perhaps the important result of President Mubarak's talks in Washington can be summed up in the fact that Egypt did not back down from its stance, which is based on a fair and sound logic maintaining that the establishment of peace does not give Israel justification to retain nuclear weapons and that Egypt and the Arab countries have a right to feel threatened by Israel's unilateral possession of nuclear weapons that are not subject to any international supervision. Israel maintains this stance at a time when it claims that it wants peace based on normal cooperative relations with its neighbors.

However, a fair and sound logic is not necessarily the basis of relations among nations. President Bill Clinton maintained the U.S. position without any change, content with mere talk about U.S. desire for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons. But he gave priority for renewal of the NPT without linking it to the possession of nuclear weapons by other countries that refuse to sign the NPT.

It seems that the only concession that Egypt made is that while it expresses full support for the NPT, it kept its options open until the international conference convenes to discuss the extension of the NPT and to see what steps Israel may take in this regard. Egypt also pledged that it will not urge other countries not to sign the NPT. In the meantime, two important factors emerged:

First, the meeting arranged between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa in Paris and the reports on the formation of an Egyptian-Israeli committee to reach a solution of the nuclear issue. In Egypt's view this development is a step in the right direction after Israel's previous stance that Egypt has entrapped itself by raising this issue and that it must find a way out. All signs indicate that the Paris meeting failed because Israel has not changed its stance. This was not the first meeting between Egypt and Israel that this issue was discussed and all efforts failed.

Second, the statement released by the United States and Russia pledging to assist any nonnuclear country should it be threatened with or exposed to a nuclear attack by a nuclear nation. There is a trend to have the Security Council pass a resolution on such guarantees to placate the nonnuclear countries and repress their desire to obtain nuclear capability on the pretext of self-defense. But do these statements suffice to solve the problem?

Mubarak Receives Message From Afghan President

NC1204112395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a message from Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani dealing with bilateral ties. Saud Khalilollah, the Afghan president's political adviser and personal envoy [name and title as received], delivered the message during an audience with President Mubarak today. [passage omitted]

Afterward Khalilollah said his talks with the president were useful and positive and dealt with cooperation between Egypt and Afghanistan, particularly in the economic sphere. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif Views Mubarak Message to al-Qadhdhafi

NC1204144295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak received Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning.

Al-Sharif said after the meeting that he submitted to President Mubarak a report on Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi's views and ideas on the contents of President Mubarak's message to the brother colonel, which was conveyed by al-Sharif.

He added that one of the most important topics in President Mubarak's message was the Lockerbie issue and Egypt's move to bring the views of the parties concerned closer, in addition to topical issues in Egypt, most importantly the Middle East peace process.

Nasirite Party Supports Libyan Hajj Decision

NC1304103395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic, speaking for the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party [NADP], on 10 April publishes two articles and a report expressing support for and encouraging popular backing of Libya's decision to send pilgrims to Mecca on board Libyan planes in defiance of the air embargo imposed on that country.

Within a 500-word front-page report on the Libyan decision and reactions to it, Nur-al-Huda Zaki and Fathi Abu-al-Hamad cite an NADP statement as voicing support for Libya's "courageous" decision. The report says that "upon a request from 'Abd-al-'Azim al-Mughrabi, secretary of NADP's Arab Affairs Committee, the party's secretariat has decided to open the door for volunteers from the party leaders and members and from all political and professional forces and figures" to join the Libyan hajj trips.

A 500-word editorial signed by Chief Editor Mahmud al-Maraghi on page 1, under the headline "Let the Pilgrims Pass, and Let International Resolutions Go to Hell," begins: "It is not a foolish thing on our part to say: 'Break the resolution of the Security Council and declare that its resolutions are unjust and that it is a toy in the hands of unfair big powers.'"

Noting that the planes will fly over Egyptian territory on their way to Mecca, the writer says that Egyptians are expecting President Mubarak to make a decision that will "restore Egypt's leading status and its initiatives against international injustices." He adds: "The public is

awaiting the position that harmonizes with our sense of pride, dignity, independence, and Arab solidarity." He continues: "Yes, we are awaiting this position, and we say: 'We will break the Security Council resolution, and the pilgrims will go safely to the house of God.'"

In his 600-word "Black and White" column on page 8, 'Abdallah al-Sinnawi urges the public to support the Libyan decision, which, he says, provides a chance for the Egyptian people to prove that they reject the embargo against Libya. Suggesting that the Egyptian Government may foil the Libyan decision, the writer says: "Our mission now is to apply pressure and let the pilgrims to Mecca pass through Egyptian airspace. If the United States wants, or has the courage to defy the sentiments of over 1 billion Muslims, it can kidnap the planes in the air or force them to land in one of its military bases on the Mediterranean shores." This, he says, will be "an international scandal, and a real disaster for U.S. interests."

Yemeni Prime Minister Praises Relations

NC0904073195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Apr (MENA)—Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani has praised Yemeni-Egyptian relations, saying that they are at their best. He expressed his hope that the joint ministerial committee will meet soon under the chairmanship of the two countries' prime ministers.

In statements to AL-AHRAM's Sunday issue, he noted that there are great prospects for future economic cooperation between the two countries by establishing joint companies in various investment spheres in Yemen, such as building material, electrical and sanitary equipment, food industries, and ready-made clothing.

On the economic crisis in Yemen, he said the Yemeni Government is serious in handling it and that there are decisive measures to reduce government spending. He added that it has been decided to reduce the number of Army personnel by 50,000 men and that the allocations for state officials will be cut down to 50 percent.

'Abd-al-Ghani said the recent demonstrations were political and incited by opposition leaders. They were not popular and the evidence of this is that they wanted to turn them into acts of rioting and violence, something we utterly reject, he noted.

Israeli Energy Minister Meets Officials in Cairo

TA1204095595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Energy Minister Gonen Segev visited Cairo and, among other things, discussed the plan to link Egypt's, Jordan's, and Israel's electricity grids. Segev told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that during the visit, he met with 'Usamah al-Baz, the

director of President Mubarak's bureau. Al-Baz told Segev that Egypt felt that unless PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat took firm action against terrorism he would be unable to maintain control over the Gaza Strip.

Commentary Blames Israel for Gaza Violence

NC1204174695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "The Implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Accord is Capable of Eliminating All Manifestations of Violence in Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again, events proved the truth of President Husni Mubarak's recent prediction in Washington. He warned the entire international community against continuing the tragic, inhumane situation in the Gaza Strip and against slackness in implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

There are acts of violence breaking out fiercely through suicide operations against the Israeli forces, followed by mass arrests of hundreds of Palestinians.

Then came a major disaster when fighting broke out between people of the same homeland. This causes grave danger not only to the Palestinians themselves, but also to the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, which is the cornerstone in any peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Away from sensitivities and accusations exchanged between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian National Authority on the recent acts of violence, we say Israel bears the greatest and most direct responsibility for what happened and even for future acts of violence in the Gaza Strip or other occupied Arab territories. This is because it placed impediments against the Palestinian National Authority and continued the blockade which created very difficult economic conditions. These measures greatly helped the groups opposed to the peace process attract many Palestinian youths due to despair and frustration suffered by Gaza inhabitants.

More important is Israel's holding back in the negotiations between the two sides, casting more doubt on Israel's true intentions toward establishing a just peace with its Arab neighbors. It also provided an opportunity for the extremist groups hostile to the peace process to repeat their allegations that Israel does not want a genuine peace and that all Israel did was attempt to play for time, to control the entire Arab region while pretending to move toward peace with the Arabs.

In addition to all this, direct responsibility lies with the entire international community, primarily with the donor nations that hesitated in providing economic and financial aid to the Palestinian National Authority to support that Authority, to overcome the bad economic situation there, and to help rebuild the Palestinian state and the infrastructure which collapsed after decades of Israeli occupation.

President Mubarak stressed this fact repeatedly and warned of its danger to the entire peace process. Because Egypt is eager to protect the peace process to the end and because it has had a primary role in this process from the beginning, Egypt is bound to act with President Mubarak to contain this serious situation. He held immediate, direct contacts with senior Palestinian and Israeli officials to prevent angry reaction which may aggravate the situation and have a negative impact on the peace efforts.

President Mubarak met yesterday with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who briefed him on the situation in the Gaza Strip following the recent incidents. Mubarak also briefed 'Arafat on the outcome of his talks with the U.S. President on the peace process.

We have one more word for Israel and the Palestinian Authority before it is too late. Regarding Israel, we say violence, oppression, fighting, possession of advanced armed force, and besieging and economically stifling the Palestinians will not provide security for the Israeli people. Rather, a just peace is what guarantees the legitimate rights of all the region's nations and thus the implementation of all the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement must be expedited.

As for the Palestinian brothers, we tell them all: Stand behind the national authority to realize your hopes of an Arab nation in the salvation, liberation of the land, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Writer Criticizes U.S.-Israeli 'Schemes'

NC1204101895 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Apr 95 p 5

[Article by 'Adil Husayn]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It is only natural that we should consider that Israeli nuclear power is directed against the Islamic and Arab nations to intimidate them and force them to capitulate to Israel's expansionist schemes. This power is even directed against any state that views the growing Zionist arrogance as a danger to their interests in our region, "particularly Germany and Japan." Israel is not content with rejecting any mention of its nuclear power or its signing of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. With this power in its possession, Israel threatens the Arab countries, foremost of which is Egypt, that it is prepared to marshal armies to quell any sign of rebellion. Rabin's official statements on this subject were not mere exaggeration or a slip of the tongue. Anyway, he has not withdrawn these statements nor apologized for them. I believe that the recent report published in the JERUSALEM POST is the most cogent proof. He spelled out expressly that Egypt must give in to all that Israel demands, otherwise it has to expect an Israeli military offensive backed by the United States, with results similar to those of the 1967 war. The JERUSALEM POST said that President Mubarak must not miscalculate as former President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir did before.

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As I said, this threat must not be considered as mere talk or as psychological warfare. I think that the Zionists have officially and more specifically conveyed it to the rulers in Egypt. The question simply is that Israel believes that the balance of forces according to which Egypt obtained the Camp David accords in 1978 has changed and that since Egypt is now weaker, thanks to the continuing policies of the current rulers, this gives Israel the opportunity to impose new concessions on Egypt, worse than those outlined in the Camp David Accords. Should the Egyptian Government try to evade this, the Israeli Army is indeed ready to direct a military strike to remind it of the realities of the new balance of forces.

What Egypt is now required to do is no less than marginalizing its role to let Israel act in the region as it wants without Egypt's interference or objection. Egypt has to give up Syria and the Palestinians, Jerusalem, and the Gulf. It has to show forthright hostility to and tighten the blockade on Libya as it has done with Iraq and Sudan. To ensure this, the U.S.-Zionist control of Egypt itself is inevitable and the ongoing subversion in the political and economic structures is an example. It has become known that all that Israel demands is backed by the United States. It is even the United States that most often initiates these demands and presents them as Zionist demands. Can't we see how the United States is seeking to thwart the Joint Arab Defense Agreement to be replaced with another military agreement on the Middle East and the south Mediterranean led by Israel and Turkey and follows NATO?

Regarding the efforts to tighten political and economic control, are not the agreements signed by U.S. Vice President Al Gore in Cairo a serious step in this direction? These agreements, which Al Gore himself supervises, are still secret and have not been discussed by the People's Assembly or the "National Democratic Party." In spite of this, they are being implemented. The texts and appendixes of these agreements have not been announced but the initial reports on them are enough to reveal their danger. Our analysis of the reports published on these agreements mentioned the danger represented by the Presidential Council that offers "proposals" that would destroy the Egyptian economy at its bases so that it would be tailored as the United States and Israel wants.

We will not be deceived into describing the relationship these agreements establish as a partnership between America and Egypt. What partnership can there be between the wolf and the lamb? It is an American custodianship rather than cooperation and partnership. If the presidential council will be made up of businessmen representatives from both countries, why can't some Egyptian public sector representatives be involved? Even if the main function of that council is to speed up privatization, the public sector representatives must have a say in how this goal could be achieved. It is known that the public sector companies representatives rely on the state's power and can hence speak from a wider strategic perspective and defend national interests

in a more daring manner. That is why these companies were excluded from the presidential council to restrict Egyptian representation to businessmen who are weak in terms of capital and size of enterprise as compared to the representatives of giant American companies and, accordingly, easier to contain through intimidation or temptation.

The term "partnership" might sound ridiculous. But more ridiculous is the fact that the American side will be represented by 15 businessmen representatives versus 15 midgets from our side (for the sake of justice and equality). The names of the two team members have actually been announced and they confirm our expectations. It was even noticed that the natural imbalance between the two sides was not enough for the American side; they directly interfered by selecting some members of the Egyptian team from among those whose full loyalty is guaranteed.

Claiming that this "American" council will submit "suggestions" is stupid nonsense; it will submit orders. It is equally misleading to say that its decisions will be submitted to presidents Clinton and Mubarak. Most probably, it will use Clinton's influence to bind Mubarak to comply.

The American pressure to influence the Egyptian decisionmaking is an old story. What is new is that interference is no longer exclusive to figures outside the presidential establishment; there will be organized official interference from within the establishment. Say goodbye to what remains of our political independence.

It was no coincidence that the U.S. Embassy's recent report on the Egyptian economy talked about 1995 as a year that promises a settlement of the issue of "economic reform." The real meaning is that it will settle the issue of economic destruction and foreign domination. It goes without saying that transforming foreign domination into an established and declared relation between establishments definitely involves Israel's presence side by side with America in the heart of the Egyptian presidential establishment. None but God can help that.

The national powers entitled to this country will know nothing of the outcome of the president's visit to Washington. No matter what took place or what agreements were concluded, the certain harvest of the visit will be a tragic calamity. I sincerely hope I am wrong. But what makes me expect and even confirm the calamity is that the ruling group has not endeavored to strengthen its position against the pressure coming from America and Israel. This only comes through reconciliation and rapprochement with the Islamic and national powers. Unless this kind of consolidation is achieved on the domestic front, the ruling group will have no alternative but to accept a disgraceful retreat and implement the hostile schemes that go beyond all the untouchable principles and all that came in the Camp David accords, humiliating as it might be.

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Having said all that, I dare say that we will not sink under the Egyptian concerns. After all, we are merely one of the many arenas of struggle against the arrogant enemies of Islam and the oppressed all over Asia and Africa. If we look up to that wide horizon rather than to our own feet, we will see that the general picture is that our nation is progressing in one site after another and that victories rise in the middle of the dust of battles year after year. Even in the areas that experience a kind of regression, it only comes after strong resistance that inflicts heavy losses on the enemy. The Islamist and nationalist resistance of the American and Israeli schemes in Egypt provides the evidence of that, just as the suicidal resistance in Palestine and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Danger of Turkish 'Security Zone' in Iraq Viewed
NC1004185695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Apr 95
p 8

[From the "Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The Safe Areas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab countries received the news of the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq on the pretext of chasing Kurdish terrorist elements from the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] with obvious indifference. The stand of the Iraqi Government itself implied that the northern areas of that country are no longer a part of it.

The European countries' stand was most noteworthy. They protested and threatened to halt the implementation of the customs union agreement that Turkey recently signed with the European Union if Turkish troops are not withdrawn from northern Iraq. Meanwhile, the United States approved of the Turkish military measure by remaining silent. A new development emerged when Turkey demanded that a "security zone" on the Iraqi-Turkish borders be set up similar to the "security zone" set up by Israel in Lebanon. It was also reported that Turkey was seeking the help of a number of Israeli experts in planning this campaign and laying down the bases for establishing a security strip on its borders with Iraq that would stop the Kurds' terrorist activities.

Regardless of the pressing fears of a partitioning of Iraq, the roots and causes of the eruption of the Turkish conflict with the Kurdish minority cannot be separated from the current situation in Iraq and from the U.S. plans to destabilize the ruling regime in Baghdad to topple and change it. The United States is relying on two things to achieve this. The first is encouragement for the Kurdish elements to oppose Saddam's government in Baghdad. The second is continuing to maintain the "air exclusion" zone in northern Iraq, which is under the West's control, with the help of Britain and France.

Instead of destabilizing the situation inside Iraq and weakening Saddam's policy, the U.S. policy has encouraged the Kurdish minority and prompted it to act against the Ankara government in a series of terrorist operations inside the country.

Thus, the Kurdish card has changed from a tool for eliminating Saddam into a tool for hitting Turkey from within and for exhausting its military strength and economic resources in the confrontation with the Kurdish minority.

What is more serious than all the above is the acceptance of the principle of establishing "security zones" as a new way for calming Middle East conflicts without solving them. Israel created this concept on its border with Lebanon and, with the passage of time, turned it into an occupied area completely under Israel's control. Establishing the proposed Turkish "security zone" in the northern part of Iraq in the absence of any international guarantees might lead to the same result. These methods threaten not only the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and Iraq but might one day become an effective way to deepen the Arabs' differences and increase their fragmentation.

Policeman Killed, 2 Wounded in Shooting

NC1204130995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—A policeman was martyred today and a police officer and a conscript were wounded when unidentified assailants fired on the police car in which they were riding in Bani Hafiz in Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate.

A responsible Interior Ministry security source stated that at 0730 this morning unidentified individuals fired on the car, which was heading for Cairo. The source added that Policeman Hasan Muhammad Farghali was martyred and Captain Yasir 'Izzat and conscript al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Sattar Sharif were wounded. They are all from the central security sector in Suhaj. The wounded were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Leading security figures, investigators, and criminal laboratory experts from al-Minya arrived at the scene of the incident for an inspection. The police agencies are trying to find the assailants and the prosecution has been notified to begin an investigation.

Mauritania

Cooperation Talks Held With Tunisian Foreign Minister

LD1204100695 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic
2200 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Maouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya received this afternoon at the presidential palace Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, the Tunisian foreign minister who is leading his country's side at the meetings of the Mauritanian-Tunisian greater committee for cooperation.

During the meeting, the Tunisian official conveyed to the president a verbal message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

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The meeting was attended by Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, Mauritanian foreign minister; the Mauritanian ambassador to Tunisia, the director of the Arab world department at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, and the Tunisian ambassador in Nouakchott. [passage omitted]

Messrs Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal and Habib Ben Yahia this morning at the National Assembly co-chaired the first meeting of the Mauritanian-Tunisian greater joint committee for cooperation which will last for two days. [passage omitted]

Agreements Signed

LD1204215895 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic
1900 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the conferences hall at the national assembly premises, the work of the grand Mauritanian-Tunisian committee on cooperation chaired by Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal and Habib Ben Yahia, the two countries' foreign ministers, concluded its work at noon today. The ambassadors of the two countries were present.

At the closing session the two ministers signed the minutes of the fifth session of the joint committee on cooperation. They also initialed a number of agreements and programs. [passage omitted]

In their review of bilateral relations the two sides placed on record with satisfaction the important achievements that have been realized in all the fields of cooperation between the two countries since the convening of the fourth session of the grand joint committee.

In this connection, they stressed the importance of inaugurating the direct air route between Tunisia and Mauritania along the field of strengthening relations between the two fraternal countries and they urged that efforts be intensified to initiate a maritime route to link their two countries as surely this will have a positive effect. In their desire to develop the relations of cooperation and widen its fields the two sides affirmed the need to discuss the mechanism of consultation and to strengthen cooperation through the creation of specialized working groups.

During their talks, the two sides exchanged viewpoints concerning political issues of mutual interest. In this framework the two sides stressed their resolve to strengthen the progress of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] through cooperation with the rest of its member states in implementation of the will of the AMU leaders and in harmony with the aspirations of their peoples. They expressed their satisfaction with the progress in building the AMU and the achievements that had been realized in this framework. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Reportage on Visit by Iranian Assembly Speaker

Importance of Visit Stressed

EA1104214195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly, has arrived in the country for a five-day visit, leading a high-level delegation made up of a number of officials in the legislative, executive, and popular fields. The guest will hold meetings with officials and will meet Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, and Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly. He will also hold several meetings with ministers. A program has been prepared for the delegation to enable it to familiarize itself with conditions in the country and the achievements made in all fields.

Dr. Qutbi al-Mahdi, Sudan's ambassador to Iran, said the visit of Ayatollah [as heard] Akbar Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Iranian Consultative Assembly, which began today, was of prime importance to the development of relations between the two countries. He added the visit coincided with a time when the international arena was witnessing great changes. He said the delegation accompanying the Iranian official numbered 70 parliamentarians, politicians, traders, and members of the Iranian Chamber of Industry and Media. In a statement immediately after arrival at Khartoum airport, Shaykh Nateq-Nuri praised Iranian-Sudanese relations. He said the purpose of the visit was to develop relations between the two countries.

He stressed that the enemies of Islam were worried by the Islamic tide sweeping the two countries. He added that the states of arrogance were lying in wait for Islam out of fear of it, and that United States and the Zionists were afraid of Islam, which confirmed that Islam was forging ahead. Nateq-Nuri quoted from the speech of Imam Khomeyni, in which he had said that Islam in Sudan and in Iran constituted the strengths of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Speaker Addresses Parliament

LD1204120195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Majles Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who is now in Sudan, this morning met and conferred with the speaker of that country's national parliament. We draw your attention to a report by our special correspondent in Sudan.

[Correspondent] The speakers of the parliaments of Iran and Sudan, in their first round of official talks today, set out to review various grounds for cooperation between Iran and Sudan.

After the conclusion of this round of talks, the Majles speaker attended the open session of the Sudanese parliament and addressed the parliament deputies.

Nateq-Nuri described the present situation in the Islamic world and stressed the need for paying attention to the conspiracies of foreigners. Moreover, he said that the revival of Islamic values among the world Muslims was a profound development. He added: This great movement has disturbed many of the world's existing political equations.

He then referred to economic and political developments in the world and emphasized the need for Muslims to familiarize themselves with the present state of the world.

He added: Today the world arrogance, led by America, has created disunity in the Islamic world in order to plunder their wealth and resources.

The Majles speaker underlined the need to attend to the problems of the Muslims of Bosnia, Kashmir, Chechnya, and Palestine, and added: What America and the Zionist propaganda organs call the peace process is nothing but the consolidation of international Zionism's domination over the world of Islam.

The Majles speaker continued his remarks by referring to America's threats against the two Islamic states of Sudan and Iran. He said: We are not frightened by these threats, and the Islamic ummah [community] must stand firmer then ever in the face of America's threats.

Nateq-Nuri then stressed the ever-expanding nature of ties between the Islamic states of Iran and Sudan, and said: The political resolve of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to develop and deepen friendly ties with Islamic countries, in particular with Sudan. We are prepared to share our ideas and exchange expertise in parliamentary affairs in order to enjoy closer cooperation with Sudan.

Correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Khartoum.

[Announcer] Furthermore, last night Nateq-Nuri addressed a gathering of the staff of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sudan and a group of Iranians residing in that country.

He referred to the strategic situation of Sudan and considered that country as a gate for Islam's entry into the African continent. He added: It is due to Sudan's sensitive status that the world arrogance has intensified its political pressures on the people of that country.

The Majles speaker referred to the closeness of the two countries' viewpoints toward many international issues and said: Cooperation between Iran and Sudan can have a very important role in resolving the problems of the Islamic world.

Nateq-Nuri then underlined the importance of the services rendered by the construction jihad in Sudan.

Addressing Iranians residing in Sudan, he said: Introducing the values of the Islamic revolution is very important and you have an important responsibility in this connection.

More on Address

EAI204192295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The speaker of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly, His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, today addressed a session of the Transitional National Assembly, chaired by its speaker, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah.

His eminence stressed that the revival of the Islamic movement was not a philosophical thesis, but a great challenge in the Islamic world, which had led to great changes in the world arena. He criticized the allegations made by the Zionists and arrogant powers, to the effect that the Islamic movement was fundamentalist and terrorist.

The speaker of the Iranian Islamic Consultative Assembly said the Islamic world today was ruled by foreigners and opportunists who were plundering the wealth and resources of Muslims and pushing them into internecine conflicts.

He added that the materialistic Washington regime was now the sole dominant force, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In his address, he made a number of proposals to rectify the situation in the Islamic world.

In his comments, Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah stressed that the salvation of the Islamic Nation was vested in its unity and the doctrine of monotheism [tawhid].

Cites Efforts Against Islam

LD1204195395 Tehran IRNA in English 1809 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, March 12, IRNA—Visiting speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran (Majles) Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, addressed deputies at the Transitional National Assembly of Sudan here Wednesday saying that the Islamic government was 'right-oriented' and grounded on the support of the masses. He said since many centuries ago 'right' had had no place in the so-called liberal creed of the westerners.

Nateq-Nuri also said that as time passes "the world of disbelief" (western governments) steadily switches to shrewder devices in its struggle with the universal Islamic movement warranting better calculated devices by Muslims to ensure better expansion of Islam.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran said both Iran and Sudan had been wrongly singled out for allegedly terrorist operations and violation of the

human rights, and for their so-called fundamentalism. He said such charges as levelled against the two countries by the 'enemies of Islam' were designed with the idea of defaming Islam and weakening the Islamic government.

He noted communism having collapsed, Washington should not cherish such wishful hopes for paternizing [as received] the world which idea, he said, would be "a more serious threat to the world than cluster bombs". The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran reminded that the massacre of Muslims such had occurred in Bosnia-Herzegovina was just a repetition of their decimation (by Christians) in Andalusia centuries ago.

He also said that what Washington had described as the peace process for the Middle East was simply a device with which to humiliate Muslims and ensure Zionist control of the Muslim world. The Iranian official, in the meanwhile, expressed the willingness of Iran to cooperate with Sudan in a number of areas and especially within the framework of their parliamentary activities.

Agreement Reached on Investment Company

NC1204201095 Paris AFP in English 1603 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, April 12 (AFP) - Iran called for "Islamic unity" with Sudan against the

West as the two countries decided to establish a joint investment company on Wednesday [12 April].

"We have to unite before our enemies. Islamic unity has to be created," Iran's parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri told the Sudanese national assembly.

Iran and Sudan both "face vicious attacks from the West under false allegations that they support terrorism," the speaker said.

"The West knows very well that the lofty message of Islam is innocent of such accusations," he said. The West was "the real leader of terrorism and abuse of human rights."

"Just as Hitler and Genghis Khan depended on war to control the world, America today is using the fields of culture and the economy," Nateq-Nuri charged.

He said the civil war in Sudan was a "plot to undermine the unity of this Islamic state" and reflects "the fears of the enemies of Islam."

Meanwhile, Sudan's Agricultural Minister Ahmad 'Ali Qunayf and Iranian Construction Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh agreed on a joint company for agricultural and industrial investments, said the Sudanese news agency SUNA.

The two countries also struck an agreement to restore Sudanese meat exports to Iran next year, SUNA said.

Kuwaiti General on GCC Military Meetings

LD1204131595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0959 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 12 Apr—Staff Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min, chief of the Kuwaiti Army General Staff, said that GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] joint training exercises will take place in Kuwait during the first half of next year.

Before leaving Riyadh on his way to Kuwait today, Mu'min told the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA that the whole of the Peninsula Shield forces, in addition to Kuwaiti forces, would participate in the training exercises.

Mu'min participated in the meetings of the second session of the GCC military committee, which concluded in Riyadh yesterday. [passage omitted]

Mu'min pointed out that the GCC countries agreed to participate in the training exercises that will be aimed at increasing the fighting capabilities through field practice.

Mu'min emphasized that yesterday's meeting took further steps towards consolidating the GCC self-defense capabilities.

Major General Mu'min pointed out that the majority of the member states actively support the implementation of self capabilities that came as a fundamental demand from the leaders of the GCC at their latest meeting in Manama last year.

Concerning the integration of the early warning network of the GCC states, Major General Mu'min said we have initiated advanced steps in this regard. Major General Mu'min refused to answer a question about the number the Peninsula Shield forces will reach by next year, although the defense ministers at their meeting last year had set it at 25,000 men by 1996. He added, however, that increasing those forces will be proportionate to these inclinations and will meet the Council states' needs.

It is to be recalled that Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi, secretary general of the GCC, announced after the conclusion of the military committee's session here last night that the committee had discussed all means of bolstering the Gulf joint defense capabilities and announced that the committee will meet within three months although the venue of the meeting has not been decided yet.

Bahrain

Interior Minister on Security Situation, Riots

JN1204120795 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0705 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 12 Apr (WAKH)—Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah has stated that the security situation in the country is generally stable and that acts of

violence, sabotage, and terrorism will end and be eradicated, thanks to the wise policy of his highness the amir and his government and with the alertness and vigilance of the sincere men of the security department, and the solidarity between the citizens and the residents within the framework of understanding and dialogue under the umbrella of the united Bahraini family.

The interior minister was addressing the Consultative Council on the recent regrettable acts of sedition, sabotage, and terrorism in the country, explaining their real dimensions and illegitimate aims. The address was published in the Bahraini newspapers today.

The interior minister said that his attending the meeting and his address on the incidents is based on guidance from his highness the prime minister. It also complements his highness' recent speech at the Consultative Council within the framework of a common national concern about these regrettable incidents which are alien to our society and which are supported from abroad.

At the beginning of his address, the interior minister praised the national role of the Consultative Council thanks to its distinguished members who are working to serve the homeland and the people, discussing important issues of society, contributing to finding proper solution to these problems, and effectively entrenching the tradition of consultation laid down by the Bahraini society since the time of our forefathers.

The minister also praised the council's national role aimed at serving the national interests and placing them above all other interests, and its continuous cooperation with the Interior Ministry and all the state ministries and establishments.

The minister also praised the council's stand on the incidents, its denunciation of these incidents, and its support for the measures taken to confront and eradicate them. He also praised its role in isolating the saboteurs and terrorists, exposing their aims, supporting efforts by the security department to foil their destructive schemes, and endeavoring to pacify the situation and reassure the citizens and [foreign] residents.

The minister said that the acts of sedition, sabotage, and terrorism were not spontaneous, but intentional, fabricated, and premeditated. It has been ascertained through investigations and confessions registered with the judiciary that an extremist religious organization has been behind these incidents. He said that this organization has illegal aims and goals, that it is linked with a party organization abroad, and that it is backed and supported by an external quarter [jihah]. He said that its leadership is linked and in contact with the conspiratorial groups residing in that power that does not want security to prevail in this stable, secure country and does not wish stability in the Gulf states or the Arab region.

The minister noted that the security department has uncovered the components of this organization in terms

of its reliance on deluded groups under the guise of religious extremism and its forming other secret groups to implement its sabotage and terrorist activities. The minister stressed that the security department is firmly confronting this organization and is working to dismantle it and pursue its members.

The minister pointed out that these groups carried out riots, violence, and terrorism in some villages and other areas with the aim of fomenting trouble, striking at economic establishments, and undermining the pillars of security and stability that have had a great effect on the country's achievements and progress and allowed it to hold a respected status in the world. The groups, he said, also aimed to create tension in the Gulf by trying to foil the Gulf Cooperation Council meeting and tamper with the region's peace and security beginning with Bahrain.

The minister said that the saboteurs tried to spread anarchy in the country through acts of arson and destruction of public services and establishments which extend vital and important services to the people. They also spread rumors and instigated confusion. When the Bahraini society rejected them, these saboteurs became disparate and escalated their crimes by burning and destroying the important utilities and by escalating their violence to include killings and assassinations.

Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah spoke about the systematic propaganda campaign that accompanied the acts of sabotage launched by the leading instigators at home with external support, and the tendentious, inaccurate information campaign abroad that accompanied the riots.

The minister said that the saboteurs did not have any real demands or wishes except to harm the security and stability of the homeland and to implement a sabotage and terrorist scheme that is imported from outside.

The minister said that the Interior Ministry and security organs will confront these events within the framework of the state's wise policy of self-restraint. At the same time, they will stand against the saboteurs with absolute determination and decisiveness. He noted that the security organs dealt with the events in accordance with the civilized Bahraini style that assesses issues according to their nature and size within limits dictated by the security situation and eagerness to fully respect the laws and norms in the country. Within this framework, he said, a high level committee was formed. The committee comprises jurists and experts to conduct investigations with those involved in the cases. He added that the committee released those against whom there was no indicting evidence and that the committee took all necessary legal measures to refer the culprits to court, which has actually begun to look into a number of issues.

The interior minister praised the citizens' sound understanding of and active support for the security efforts, as well as their cooperation with public security forces, proceeding from their rejection of riots, sabotage, and

extremism and out of their adherence to their national unity and the spirit of family unity. Moreover, he added, the citizens are doing so out of their belief that these events only result in sabotage, achieve nothing other than a recession, and obstruct the government's national efforts to achieve development and progress. He said that Bahraini society and its integration and the understanding and cohesion among its various social groups are the best support for the security efforts to resist sedition and division, uproot violence and extremism, and entrench security and stability in the country.

Furthermore, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah praised the council's stand on the events, its rejection and denunciation of these events, and the measures taken to confront and end them. He also praised the role the council is playing to isolate saboteurs and terrorists and expose their objectives and to support the security bodies' efforts to foil their destructive scheme, calm the situation, and reassure and educate the citizens and residents.

The interior minister also praised the exhaustive and continuous efforts made by public security men with absolute dedication and the positive results of these efforts. He stressed the continued need for intensified efforts by public security forces to reinforce security and stability since they are at the top of the country's priorities to support its march of goodness and prosperity.

Following the interior minister's speech, a number of council members delivered speeches in which they praised the contents of the interior minister's speech on the riots. They also expressed their full appreciation and praise for the major role played by security bodies and all their sectors in dealing with these regrettable events that the country went through and their role in entrenching the march of security and safety inside the homeland. Afterwards, the interior minister thanked the council members who spoke during the session. He also thanked the head and all members of the esteemed Consultative Council.

Reportage on Visit by South Africa's N. Mandela

Mandela Not To Attend Gulf Forum Meeting

MB1204154895 Johannesburg SAAfm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Diplomatic eyebrows were raised in the Bahraini capital, Manama, today, when only Die Stem [The Voice] and the Bahraini national anthem were played to greet President Nelson Mandela on his arrival in the city. The omission of Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika was ascribed to a misunderstanding.

Shortly after his arrival, it was announced that President Mandela would not be attending the meeting of the Gulf Economic Forum being held in the city. No reason was given for his last-minute turning down of the offer.

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Holds Talks With Amir

JN1204170095 Manama WAKH in English 1538 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, April 12 (GNA)—The official talks between H. H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and South African President Nelson Mandela began at al-Qudaybiyah Palace here this afternoon.

Present were the Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the Crown Prince and Commander in Chief of the Defence Force Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, the Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Minister of the Interior Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, the Minister of Transport Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, the Minister of Development Yusuf al-Shirawi, the Minister of Housing Shaykh Khalid Bin-'Abdallah Al Khalifah and the Minister Labour and Social affairs and head of the Honorary Mission Shaykh 'Isa Bin-'Ali Al Khalifah.

From the South African side, the talks session was attended by the Senior Advisor to the President Mr. Ahmed Kathrada, the senior official of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs Mr. Anthony Mongalo and the South African Charge d'Affaires Rodolf Abil [names of three South African officials as received].

Following the talks, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah said at the beginning of the meeting, H. H. the amir welcomed President Mandela in Bahrain and stressed that the visit would contribute in opening new doors for cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The minister of foreign affairs said the visit was important to boost relations between Bahrain and South Africa and it would have positive results, adding that H. H. the amir had highlighted the heroic role of President Mandela in his struggle against apartheid.

The minister added that points of view between the two sides were identical toward various issues on the agenda, mainly the current developments in the Gulf, the Middle East peace process, the situation in the African continent and the latest developments in South Africa.

He said that they also discussed the possibility of developing economic, trade and investment cooperation between the two countries.

He pointed out that the South African president had expressed his appreciation to H. H. the amir and his government for inviting him to visit Bahrain and underlined the stand of H.H. the amir, government and people of Bahrain toward South Africa's struggle against apartheid which had led to independence and to the formation of a new order capable of serving the interests of the South African people.

Mandela Concludes Visit

JN1304101495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT
13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 13 Apr (WAKH)—South African President Nelson Mandela and his delegation left Manama for Nairobi this morning following an official two-day visit to Bahrain.

During the visit, Mandela held talks with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, dealing with relations between both friendly countries and ways to enhance them, particularly in the economic, trade, and investment fields.

They also reviewed the recent developments in the Gulf, Arab and international issues, the Middle East peace process, the situation in Africa, and issues of common concern. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Mosques, Their Role in Politics Discussed

95LH0100A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
15 Jan 95 p 32

[Article by Jasim al-Shammari in Kuwait: "Islamists Consider the Friday Sermon To Be Their Information Medium; in Kuwait Politicized Mosques Are More Popular"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even in Kuwait where the state has guaranteed political representation as well as freedom of expression to religious movements, the role of some mosques has not been limited to prayers and religious obligations. However, the mosques have gone beyond to form a podium and focus for the other opinion that the Islamic groups, which one may say are the basic foundation from which it sprang, are adopting as a program and ideology. Therefore, one may say that in the beginning were the mosques and then the general welfare organizations were formed. They are the legal cover for Islamic political movements in Kuwait.

There are approximately 760 mosques in Kuwait including neighborhood mosques, which inhabitants of a single neighborhood, especially the elderly, sometimes build when they find that the mosque is far from them. No Friday prayers or prayers for the two festivals are conducted there. Worship in them is limited to daily obligations.

The ministry of religious endowments and Islamic affairs directly oversees these mosques and supplies them with all the necessary requirements of a place of worship.

In every mosque small groups of youth who call themselves the young men of the mosque are noticeable. They are eager to meet after each prayer, write guidance instructions, and display them at conspicuous places on the outside walls of mosques.

It would not be proper to consider these small groups as the nucleus for forming the foundation of Islamic political action. However, it is also apparent that many of the leaders of the Islamic movements are very eager to support these groups and to attempt to draw them into becoming an active group in the religious organization to which they belong. A large number of religious Kuwaitis have been observed preaching in mosques during the past four years. In many of their sermons they tend to be critical of the local social and political circumstances and highlight mistakes in observance of religious laws. Some writers, however, have reservations about this and are writing about the harm of using the podiums of mosques, as they say, to circulate the ideas of political groups, or as they call them, "political Islamization" groups. In this regard, Dr. Shamlan al-'Isa, the journalist and political science professor at Kuwait University writes in his commentary on this subject that exploiting mosques to express a political point of view has caused a big debate. Islamic movements believe that it is the right of mosque preachers to deal with politics because they are the concern of Muslims, and every subject that concerns them must be discussed. Others, on the other hand, believe that exploiting mosques for political matters might result in numerous criticisms.

Dr. al-'Isa continues his commentary, saying: "Is it the point of view of the political authority or that of the opposition Islamic parties that represent religion?"

He goes on to say that the interest in the Friday sermon has increased in Kuwait especially after Islamic movements gained control over the ministry of religious endowments. It has been noticed that worshipers crowd those mosques where the preacher is opposed to the state, while attendance is normal at those mosques where the preachers are not politicized.

From the other side, the Islamic writer Dr. 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Shayayaji points to the importance of the sermon and writes a commentary in which he says: "It goes without saying that today we should mention the importance of the Friday sermon. It is one of the main and basic means for presenting the Islamic point of view on political events and analyzing them, especially these days when radio broadcasts and television have come to express the point of view of governments. As for the press, most refuse to publish the other opinion, which opposes their point of view and the point of view of those they represent." Dr. al-Shayayaji adds that the Friday sermon is the most prominent information medium to present the Islamic point of view on important topics, especially politics. However, he continues scornfully: "Even though we have this great opportunity (the podium), some of us have not used it as well as we should. Not a few preachers have joined this battle and matters have reached the point where some of them stigmatized some journalists as unbelievers. This led the ministry of religious endowments to ban some of those preachers."

On the other hand, Khalid al-Jiran, the director of mosque management at the ministry of religious endowments and Islamic affairs states to AL-MAJALLAH that

there are approximately 760 mosques in Kuwait which the ministry, represented by its management, oversees. He said that there are a number of mosques, usually for prayers only, that are outside the responsibility of the ministry and those are the ones inside army bases, schools, public or private establishments and nursing homes. He stated that the number of preachers in Kuwait has reached approximately 200 preachers. Some were appointed, but most are volunteers. The supervision of volunteers is not different from that of the appointed preachers.

He said that the suspension of some preachers is not based on the preacher's political inclinations. He is required to be moderate in presenting his case and not to rely on rumors or the stories that circulate among people, but to be in control of the material he wants to speak about. The suspension is for a limited period, and the preacher will be informed of the reason for his suspension. He said that the ministry distributes a weekly Friday sermon to all mosques, but that it does not hold the preachers to it.

He said that censorship of the preachers is exercised in the first place by the public listening to the sermon. If it contains something objectionable, then the public can contact the censorship offices that are scattered in the regions. The ministry also selects a number of preachers in all governorates in order to record their sermons. The recording is in the first place for evaluation purposes and for making any comments, be they about the language, length, brevity, or subject. In the second place it is for use as evidence for the preacher should he encounter spiteful or untrue accusations.

Oman

Foreign Minister, Iraqi Finance Minister Confer

JN1204190195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 12 Apr (INA)—[Iraqi] Minister of Finance Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir held talks in Muscat today with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

The finance minister arrived in Muscat to participate in the annual meeting of the Arab finance and economy ministers and heads of Arab League's financial and economic funds.

[Iraqi] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf visited the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar last month. [Iraqi] Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad concluded a visit to Qatar today, Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia

'Islamic Change Movement' Threatens Foreign Forces

MM1204141595 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Extremist Saudi Organization Threatens To Hit Foreigners and Influential Princes in the Kingdom"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—An extremist Saudi organization has threatened to carry out military operations against the "crusade forces" in the Arabian Peninsula, especially U.S. and British forces and what it described as the influential members of the Al Sa'ud family.

The organization calls itself "the Islamic Change Movement - the Jihad Wing in the Arabian Peninsula." Its first statement, a copy of which was faxed to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, carries an emblem of a crescent with a map of the Arabian Peninsula in the middle of it and the following verse from the Koran under it: "Fight those who neither believe in God nor in the hereafter, who do not prohibit what God and his prophet prohibited, and who do not uphold the righteous religion."

The statement gave the foreign forces in the Arabian Peninsula until Wednesday 30 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 28 June 1995, after which, it said, these forces would become a legitimate target. The statement added that the Royal Guard and Military Police forces and similar forces which protect the current regime would also be a target of its operations.

The statement criticized the Saudi regime, accusing it of infidelity to and of fighting Islam, Muslims, preachers, and reformers, and of opening the Peninsula's territory to imperialist crusade forces.

This is not the first time that unknown organizations have issued statements threatening acts of violence against foreigners in Saudi Arabia. Six months ago an organization calling itself "the Peninsula Hawks" made similar threats and gave foreigners one week to leave but it did not carry out its threats.

CDLR Bulletin on Change, Success of Protests
MS1304101095 London CDLR MONITOR in English
7 Apr 95

[Bulletin No. 42 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 7 April—received by fax 12 April]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know—The Success of the "Sit-in" Protests and the Signs of Change...

No one can doubt the unity and agreement of the Nation in support of the legitimate leaders and that the reform process has the sympathy of all levels of society. This, however, was not the real test. The test in question was regarding "who is prepared to sacrifice." Those hundreds of thousands, or perhaps millions, of supporters and sympathisers are unable to present any real opposition unless they are led at the forefront by a committed group of people who are readily prepared to sacrifice their all for the cause. Indeed, sacrifices such as detention, torture and even death must be prepared for and accepted. Unless this leading group is solidly steadfast,

then the rest of the support will collapse. The leading group does not necessarily need to be large, as it was a small group that Allah gave victory to in the story of David and Goliath.

Regardless of the oppressive and apprehensive atmosphere, there was a presence of around 5000 protesters in Buraydah. This indicates that a leading group, such as previously mentioned, is now available, ready and prepared. This huge presence also indicates the extremely healthy and vigorous situation regarding reform, and that there is a comprehensive integration of the various components necessary for change. The pre-requisites to reform are beginning to fall into place. We are unsure whether the rulers understand this new language or not. The presence of a leading group in such circumstances indicates very strongly that the reality of the situation in the Kingdom has totally changed. The truth has been revealed, and this is a natural evolution and a constant law.

The method the Government adopts now is of no real significance because the main obstacle has been overcome and the leading group has been formed. If tyranny and oppression were in any way effective, or served any purpose, this would have been evident after the first Buraydah uprising.

The rulers are blinded by their own sense of importance and have no understanding of the new reality present in the Kingdom. Al-Sa'ud still insist on treating the reform case purely on the grounds of it being a problem of security. We fully expect their inability to accept this new reality, and that they will continue to refuse to deal with it in any way.

The rulers will continue with their confrontational and aggressive security methods, whereas the reform movement is in turn confronting them in a civilized, steady and stable manner.

All indications point towards the fact that the method employed by the Government was, and will remain, one of the reform movements weapons to use against them.

The school of al-Sa'ud refuses to admit that it is based on a precarious and fragile foundation and that its main structure can only be suitable for one composition which includes:— an isolated and ignorant population; scholars initiated into al-Sa'ud's version of Islam; international support; complete absence of independent social institutions and public leaders.

Al-Sa'ud are totally inept and incompetent regarding strategic planning, the ability to realise their own limitations and to diagnose problems and dangers. This does not, however, totally negate the experience they gained from their father regarding the every day running of the country, and in dealing with various sectors of the society. The problem is that this experience is still clouded by the factors mentioned earlier.

We are unsure as to precisely when al-Sa'ud will realise that this composition on which they have based, their

existence has inexorably changed. The population is no longer isolated and ignorant as al-Sa'ud would wish. The education gained by the people is what al-Sa'ud fear most. Education and awareness of political and legitimate rights has transformed the people and they now demand the right of participation in the Kingdom's decision-making process and they strongly advocate the accountability of the leaders before the Nation.

With regard to the Scholars of al-Sa'ud, they have been completely disregarded and scorned by the legitimate leaders, who fear no one but Allah with regard to speaking the truth. The legitimate leaders are steadfast in the face of adversity, injustice and tyranny.

Regarding the absence of social institutions and public leaders, it has become patently obvious that many public leaders have now become visible, whether they are university professors, businessmen, teachers or other dignitaries. The prevention of the founding of independent institutions forced the need to create them in secrecy and this led to the clandestine formation of many groups widely distributed throughout the Kingdom. All of these groups pertain to one goal, that is, to strengthen the people's authority and to weaken the authority of the present rulers.

In respect of international support, this is extremely fragile in as much as this support is unstable and fickle in the extreme. Moreover, this international support was powerless to prevent the successive exposure of scandals related to al-Sa'ud, along with detailed reports in the western media regarding the regime's decline.

The final factor, and one which has at least given al-Sa'ud brief respite after the collapse of all the other components, was the availability of cash. This was used to silence the people. It would now appear that this is what will finally finish the regime, in as much as the fact that the current lack of cash has now become a major factor in exposing the weaknesses of the regime and their collapse.

The rulers are still pathetically unable to comprehend all of this, as they still desperately cling to the belief that the people are subservient and ignorant. Al-Sa'ud insist on deluding themselves in that Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Baz and Shaykh al-Luhaydan still form the legitimate authority in all matters. Al-Sa'ud still persists in their obeisance towards, and trust in, the Americans and the Jews, despite what these two have done in the past to the Shah and Somoza and others. Al-Sa'ud even believe their delusions regarding the strength of the economy.

Despite the problems of the Nation and society, to which, it must be said, no Islamic societies are immune at the present time, and despite the efforts of the Government to subvert public activities, we will find ourselves standing before a new reality which indicates the inevitable change to come. It is only a matter of time in Sha'Allah. The availability of a solid public base sympathetic to reform, the formation of a leading group

prepared to sacrifice their all for their beliefs and the appearance of legitimate leaders independent of Government control have all created a widespread agreement amongst the nation with regard to the reform movement. This clear and strong message, which has touched the sympathy of the people, has also activated the dormant interest of the educated.

Every challenge presented by al-Sa'ud will automatically become fuel for the reform movement. The biggest mistake committed by the regime is in forcing this reform movement into becoming an opposition front which has committed all its activities to the weakening and exposure of the regime.

We still do not know when this regime will realise that there are an unlimited number of cards stacked against them and that forcing people towards confrontation is an actual encouragement for the people to use all their cards to outplay the regime.

Everything domestically and internationally can be manipulated and used against the regime while it refuses to admit its weaknesses. On the domestic front, for instance, this includes:—the economy; security; corruption of the faith; injustice; the war on preaching and reform; social realities and chaos; the situation of the labor force; unemployment; racial discrimination; the despicable state of education; deteriorating health services; decline in public services; bribes; crimes committed by al-Sa'ud and the treatment of Hajj Pilgrims etc. Internationally, these problems and mistakes include the situation of the embassies; external relations based purely on personal interest; plans to siege Islam abroad; sponsoring anti-Islamic movements and the control of the activities of Islamic centres.

All the factors previously mentioned were properly and efficiently used and directed due to the freedom of the press abroad and through books, magazines, films, cassettes, demonstrations and protests. Other factors involved in the penetration of the very heart of the regime were faxes, radio transmissions etc. The regime must understand that they will be facing tumultuous times in the days and weeks ahead if they continue to persist in their challenging stubbornness, and this will ultimately cause their complete collapse, especially if they proceed on the path of confrontation.

A group of international Islamic organisations in Europe and America have decided to organise a day of solidarity with the scholars of the peninsula and in collaboration with the Committee. Their aim is to highlight the Saudi regime's abhorrent practice against the scholars and preachers and also to expose the horrendous manner in which the regime trifles with the destiny of the Nation. On the day of solidarity there will be "sit-in" protests in various capital cities, speeches, distribution of books and leaflets and perhaps various assemblies. The legitimate leaders advise that it is preferable to organise similar activities within the Kingdom to run concurrently with the activities abroad.

O Brothers, due to the acceptance by the nation with regard to public activities, the success of the "sit-in" protest experiment, the disappearance of all reservations and hesitation from the hearts of the Brothers and supporters, and also the increased feelings of responsibility amongst the people and their complete refutation of the present situation where the nation's reformers are incarcerated behind bars, the legitimate leaders therefore wish to repeat their call for another sit-in protest to run simultaneously with those protests to take place abroad.

The date set is Friday 21st April. The sit-in protest will take place in various areas which will be disclosed at a later date.

The Committee would ask the Brothers to use this period of time for effective work in order to prepare the people psychologically for what is to come and to do their utmost to convince the few brothers who are still hesitant to participate fully when the time comes. As the attendance of the second protest was around ten times the attendance of the first, we hope, in Sha'Allah, the next time the response will further exceed all our expectations. It is hoped that everyone in all areas will move in the direction of reform and public participation in order to share the load and to prevent the concentration of events to Riyadh and Qasim.

It would also be advisable to form delegations of students of knowledge to visit all the different areas in an organised campaign for the purpose of involving the whole population in the forthcoming activities.

We would also advise on the benefits of taking advantage of the Hajj season and to use this for the cause of reform, especially with regard to distribution of leaflets, cassettes etc.

News

al-Janadiriyyah Festival...

After several months of imposing increased tariffs and taxes on the poor citizens, the ever ending story of the necessity of austerity measures, sensible spending and tight budgets — all followed by the organisation of King Fahd's League for the Continents Championships — we now have al-Janadiriyyah Festival for Culture and education which has been organised by the National Guard.

Millions of riyals were set aside especially for this event. The festival was organised for reasons well known to most citizens. In brief these reasons are as follows:

- to favorably advertise the Saudi regime by inviting many intellectuals, artists and foreign journalists
- to buy the dignity and loyalty of hired writers from home and abroad by presenting them with financial and material incentives and large banquets of honor
- to find official channels for more embezzlement, in the name of the festival.

It would perhaps have been more appropriate to pay the salaries of the employees of the National Guard (excluding those hoping to gain from such activities), whether they are Saudi nationals or foreign contractors. Despite this, and the fact that the reality of the country's budget for this year is purely fictional, the first clause in the budget is that regarding wages, and it is precisely that clause that faces a horrendous deficit. The decision makers decided, in their "infinite wisdom," that the solution to the problem lies in making an agreement with Al-Rajhi Investment Company to pay the salaries of the employees of the National Guard, with payment from last Ramadan.

In spite of this terrible situation, there is still a group who gain from the organisation of such pitiful festivals at the expense of the average citizen, who is also being increasingly burdened by spiralling rises in the cost of water, electricity, telephones etc., as well as other taxes and tariffs. All of this has touched the daily lives of the whole population.

Lectures or Intelligence Personnel?

The management committee of al-Imam University at al-Qasim branch were ordered to form a committee to investigate the intensity of the distribution of the Committee's publications. The formation of such a Committee caused great resentment amongst the students and the majority of lecturers. It caused those lecturers participating in the committee to lose their reputations amongst the students and other staff members, especially as the investigation committee has not yet reached any conclusions of importance.

We appeal to the students not to publicise the names of the investigative committee just yet in order to offer them a chance to repent.

Today — Nature Preservation, Tomorrow — Abu-Ghazal...

The so-called Institution of Nature preservation confiscated the Figrah area in Medinah, which is owned by the tribes of Walad Muhammad, al-Ahamidah, al-Jidd'ah and al-Massahirah. These tribes appealed against the confiscation in a telegram of protest of Prince Sultan in the hope that he would treat them fairly and justly. His reply, however, was extremely impolite and served to confirm the people's suspicion that they must depart the land immediately. The people still hope that they will be reunited with their land through the judiciary system.

Back to Fraud and Forgery...

After a cessation lasting several months, the intelligence department have once again resorted to the abhorrent practice of forging and falsifying communiques issued by the Committee, in the hopeless belief that such action would serve to confuse and delude the Nation. A communique was forged to report the cancellation of the previous protest. The intelligence department distributed another communique regarding the Committee's

spokesman, Dr al-Mas'ari. Both communiques are not even worth reading, never mind replying to.

We will continue our policy of not replying to these communiques. We will, however, continue to mention our published communiques. The communiques issued this week are No. 31 in answer to the cancelling of the protest, communique 31 is a press release and communique 32 has the heading "Buraydah: The day of Good News." Any other communiques are forged.

A New Confiscator Added To The List...

Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz decided to compete with his uncles in the confiscation and embezzlement of the citizens property and money with no legitimate right to do so.

With no prior warning, a large area of land in Mecca was confiscated. The prince brought in bulldozers to demolish shops etc. in the area. This action caused a great deal of resentment amongst the people evacuated by force.

al-Sa'ud's Scholars and The Hard Lesson...

The management Committee of the Preaching Offices in Qasim received an order from the Ministry of Islamic Affairs requesting them to receive a delegation from the leading members of the al-Jamiyyah group in Medinah. Amongst the delegation were Salih Al-Suhaym and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-'Abbad.

This delegation was sent according to the directions of the Interior Ministry and was forced upon the preaching offices in Qasim under the impression that the authorities can "brainwash" the people of Qasim. However, one of their major scholars, during his lectures in Qasim, attracted only 20-30 spectators due to his stands against reform activities and his favorable position with the Government.

The first experiment of this group was yesterday, Tuesday, where the people of Qasim expressed their refusal of such pathetic scholars in a most unique manner. Large numbers of people arrived at the mosque, but as soon as the lecturer began to speak, the majority of those present arose and left. Also, the electricity was disconnected. The people returned to the mosque and raised their voices in praise of reform and they showed their complete and utter repudiation of this group. This chaos forced the lecturers into a hurried retreat while the people continued to impress upon them their total rejection of their views.

Detentions in Ha'il Excite The Tribe of Shammar...

A campaign of detention in Ha'il caused great resentment amongst the tribe of Shammar, as all those detained belonged to their tribe.

The people of Ha'il were astonished by the detention of ten of their most reputable young men, all known for

their honour and righteousness. Those detained are as follows"; Shaykh 'Abdullah Al-Zigdi Al-Shammari, Shaykh Nasir al-Midla' al-Shammari, Shaykh Turki Ad-Dhab'an al-Shammari, student Muhammad Badi al-Shummari, student Nawwaf 'Ayid al-Shammari, student Majid Zayid al-Shammari, student Sultan Muhammad al-Shalaqi al-Shammari, student Ahmad 'Awdah al-Shammari an Shaykh 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Jumayz al-Shammari.

The Interior Ministry is attempting to connect this group with the assault incident on one of the regime's scholar Shaykh al-'Ubaylan, despite the fact that most of the above mentioned group, or perhaps all, were absent from Ha'il city on the night in question. The Interior Ministry, in an attempt to cover up its inability to apprehend the real miscreants, is using this group as an excuse.

The tribe of Shammar has every right to resent this group detention and considers this event as a direct insult to the tribe, as those detained are people of faith and honesty, not criminals and hooligans.

A Debate With the Rest...

One of the sons of 'Abd-al-'Aziz, has suddenly and unexpectedly become religious, going to the extent of growing his beard in the belief that he has then attained the same level of knowledge and piety as the scholars. Thereafter he presented a lecture at a meeting of various organisations in Jeddah. During the meeting the following debate between the prince and one of the audience took place:—Prince: "al-Mas'ari claims that the Kingdom is unjust and that Britain is just. How is it possible to believe that a non-Muslim country is just and a Muslim country is unjust?"

Member of Audience: "yes, it is possible and this is what Shaykh Ibn-Taymiyah said."

Prince: "Give me an example."

Member of Audience: "A man from al-Sa'ud commits murder and stays at liberty."

Prince: "Such as whom?"

Member of Audience: "Such as you, prince."

At this reply, the prince was shocked and agitated and answered in a very sarcastic manner to avoid a continuation of this dialogue. The very existence of such people who are prepared to face up to our arrogant rulers, is an extremely encouraging sign.

Safety and Security!!

A bus carrying female teachers on the al-Ta'if road was brought to a halt by a group of bandits attempting to abduct the teachers. This abduction was very nearly successful if it had not been for the timely intervention of a group of good citizens who prevented the abduction taking place.

Incidents of this type are becoming increasingly common and it seems that the police are unable to apprehend such criminals as their time is taken up with investigating the reform movement.

The Doctor Detained For Daring To Criticise...

In King Fayhsal Hospital in al-Ta'if, a doctor was detained after trying desperately to honour his duties to a patient. Having issued the patient with a prescription, the patient then returned to inform the doctor that the prescribed medicine was unavailable.

The doctor himself checked the pharmacy, and then the medical stores, and also found no joy. Out of sheer desperation the doctor exclaimed publicly, and loudly, that the hospital should close if it was unable to provide adequate services to its patients.

For these remarks he hurriedly found himself imprisoned.

The People of Mithnib Complain...

Amongst the people of Mithnib, in Qasim, a great deal of resentment has spread due to the appointment of a new chief of police, 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Wakil, whose manners, suspicious connections and his stand against the young men and preachers of reform, have a lot to be desired.

It is understood that this new chief was transferred to this area as a personal punishment. This action has deeply angered the people of Mithnib who feel that they have been used as a punishing ground for errant servants of al-Sa'ud.

The Meeting of Betrayal...

The news regarding the meeting between Bandar and the Americans and Israeli intelligence departments, along with the various details that have been published, have caused a huge storm inside the royal family, as well as in America and the society.

Further details will be published in future bulletins, after the completion of important information regarding this infamous meeting.

Yemen

Salih Denies Harboring 'Egyptian Afghan Groups'
NC1204112795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 12 Apr (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has described his country's relations with Egypt as cordial and historic. He denied that Yemen is harboring the Egyptian Afghan groups. He stressed that this accusation is unfair and untrue.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR, the Yemeni president likened Yemen's relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to a tide of ebb and flow. He said that the root of the problem between the two countries is the border issue. He denied reports about Yemen's desire to go to war with Saudi Arabia.

He said that Yemeni diplomacy has been dealing with the problem between the two countries with great success. The two parties have reached a memorandum of understanding, which the Yemeni Government approved.

Regarding Yemen's stance on the peace process, Salih affirmed that it supports the Syrian stance in the negotiations and Syria's principled rejection of the occupation.

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih pointed out that he wished the Palestinians had gotten more than Gaza and Jericho. However, it seems that they were forced to accept Gaza and Jericho because of the absence of Arab solidarity, which the Gulf war helped the Arabs lose.

Regarding the internal situation in his country, he affirmed that the war in Yemen is over and will never happen again. There is no scope for this war to flare up again. He noted that there are some friends of Yemen in America and Europe who support Yemeni unity. However, they were not confident that this unity would continue and would be able to remain steadfast to confront what they believed was rallying against it.

He clarified that Yemen's triumph in uniting its land averted certain catastrophe that would have befallen the people had the separatists been given the opportunity to use chemical weapons and the warplanes that they possessed.

He enumerated the problems confronting his country, foremost of which are the losses from the unification war that amount to nearly \$10 billion, finding work opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Yemenis, and solving the problems of administration, construction, and the lack of jobs.

Talabani: Turkey Forcing Kurds To Talk With Saddam

NC1304062595 Istanbul TURKIYE in Turkish
11 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Omer Demir in northern Iraq; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Demir] Mr. Talabani, what do you think about Turkey's operation in northern Iraq?

[Talabani] We discussed this issue with the local Kurdish officials before the Turkish intervention. The operation will not benefit Turkey. I do not think that the operation will ensure security on Turkey's southern border.

[Demir] Once Turkey withdraws from the region, would you ensure security in the region in cooperation with Barzani?

[Talabani] I think that it is the duty of the local Kurdish government to protect our neighbor Turkey's southern border. I believe that the two biggest Kurdish parties should protect northern Iraq's borders with Turkey, Iran, and Syria. We signed an agreement on this issue with the Turkish Government in 1992. However, the Tansu Ciller government did not abide by this agreement.

[Demir] In what ways could you help Turkey in the struggle against the PKK [Workers' Party of Kurdistan]?

[Talabani] The Turkish Government could solve the problem by protecting its borders from its own territory. It could find a political solution to the problem. It could stop the violence by sitting at the table with the Kurds in the country. It could ensure human rights. The government in northern Iraq could prevent the infiltration of the armed groups from the region into Turkey. Turkey should change its policy. The Turkish officials with whom we met are forcing us to talk with Saddam. They do not even accept the existence of the Kurdish state in the region. One should be a realist. The Kurds have their own government in northern Iraq. This does not mean the division of Iraq. No problem will remain at all if Iraq grants us autonomy. Instead of giving attention to Baghdad, that is to the enemy of the Kurds, let Turkey accept us as its counterpart. Let the regional countries not come together and regard us as a threat. We are a reality. As long as this attitude continues I cannot give anyone a guarantee on border security. We, as Iraqi Kurds, want to develop all sorts of relations with our great neighbor Turkey and act together. Let this be known.

Spokesman: 'Ciller's Government Has Gone Too Far'

JN1204184395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1816 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Iraq has reiterated its categorical rejection of any Turkish pretexts or justifications to keep the invading forces inside Iraqi territory.

In a statement to INA today commenting on recent statements by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel during his recent visit to Chile and by Prime Minister Ciller to the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET on 10 April—in which they try to justify the invasion—an official Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Turkey did not tell Iraq in advance that it would conduct military operations inside Iraqi territory. It did this only after its forces entered Iraqi territory on 20 March when the Turkish Foreign Ministry informed the Iraqi ambassador about this, just as it told other accredited ambassadors in Ankara.

The spokesman said the Government of the Republic of Iraq categorically rejects Mrs. Ciller's position, which indicates that its government plans to press ahead with the military operations in northern Iraq and to repeat them in the future. In addition, this indicates that Mrs. Ciller's government has gone too far in violating Iraq's sovereignty and brushed aside its commitments under international law.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman warned strongly of the serious consequences of this policy and reiterated Iraq's demand that the Turkish military forces immediately withdraw from northern Iraq. All the pretexts and justifications the Turkish Government is using as a cover-up are weak, contradictory, and categorically rejected.

Commenting on what Mrs. Ciller called a political vacuum in northern Iraq and its negative effect on the security and stability of the northern region of Iraq and southern Turkey, the spokesman said: Mrs. Ciller did not mention the reasons that led to this state of confusion in northern Iraq, even though she knows them.

The spokesman added: This situation, which the Turkish prime minister calls a political vacuum, is the result of a U.S. plot, in which Turkey has participated by agreeing to station the U.S. and British Hammer Force on its territory.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Iraq had warned the Turkish government of the dangers of allowing the U.S.-British aggression forces to use Turkish territory as a springboard to attack Iraq and its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to interfere in its domestic affairs.

The spokesman also recalled that Iraq had warned the Turkish Government against supporting the Americans and the British and the traitorous rebels in northern Iraq. Iraq says that helping those outlaws will create chaos in northern Iraq as well as in Turkey. What is happening now bears out Iraq's view.

The spokesman added that Iraq previously noted that the invading troops have committed gross human rights violations and other violations of international humanitarian law in northern Iraq by killing a large number of innocent citizens, including women and children. They also severely damaged private and public property. The

Turkish forces also practiced looting and turned schools into a headquarters for the invading troops and detention centers for Iraqi citizens.

Concluding, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that the invasion carried out by Turkish forces is a gross violation of the UN Charter and is not part of the nations' legitimate right to self-defense that is mentioned in this charter, as Mrs. Ciller claims. This invasion is state terrorism that is condemned by the international community.

Turkey Held Responsible for Human Rights Abuses

JN1304094295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0814 GMT
13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—Iraq has held the Turkish Government fully responsible for the violations of human rights committed by the invading Turkish Forces in northern Iraq. In a statement to INA, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman called on the Turkish Government to immediately stop such practices and to withdraw, without any delay, its invasion forces from northern Iraq, as well as to shoulder its responsibilities in accordance with the related international charters so as to show respect for the humanitarian international law and for Iraq's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity.

The official spokesman noted that a number of defenseless Iraqi civilians were either killed or wounded in the Turkish military invasion of northern Iraq. The spokesman added that it has been confirmed that the invading Turkish forces killed 12 Iraqi civilians. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Turkish Forces carried out inhuman practices against the residents of villages and populated areas in northern Iraq, such as the confiscation of citizens' personal property, preventing farmers from carrying out their work under the pretext of collaborating with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), and turning village schools into headquarters for these forces and using them as detention camps.

Paper: U.S. Supports Turks in Violating Rights

JN1204151395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has emphasized that the U.S. Administration, which pretends to be eager to maintain human rights, supports the Turks in their violation of the human rights of the Kurds in their country and in their invasion of northern Iraq.

The newspaper, published by the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, said in a comment on U.S. Secretary of State

Warren Christopher's statements, that the U.S. Administration supports the Turkish Government which violates the rights of millions of Kurds in Turkey and chases them outside its borders, committing a compound crime by invading another country and desecrating its lands and security of its citizens.

The newspaper referred to the strong U.S. pressures that created a fait accompli in northern Iraq and kept the entire region out of the control of the central Iraqi Government under the pretext of finding a safe haven for Iraqi Kurds. This region has become a bloody jungle in which the agents cause havoc by robbing and killing.

The newspaper said the U.S. Administration ignored the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq, which caused the killing of four children and a woman in Zakho area, in addition to the killing of seven innocent civilians in Dahuk. It said the Turkish Government should think about the future and should not become an instrument of the hostile design because tampering with Iraq's security and stability in service of Tel Aviv will be catastrophic to Ankara and the whole region.

Editor: CIA Seeks \$15 Million To 'Topple Saddam'

JN1204193995 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES today reported that the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] has asked Congress to earmark \$15 million to finance operations to topple Saddam Husayn, as the U.S. newspaper put it.

The newspaper added: The request for earmarking this sum is in line with a White House plan announced by U.S. President Bush in 1992. Bush then asked Congress to allocate \$40 million for the same purpose. In 1993, President Clinton reduced the sum to \$20 million. Apparently, there has been another reduction this year to \$15 million.

Commenting on THE NEW YORK TIMES report, a political editor of the Iraqi News Agency said: Certain quarters in the U.S. Administration are deliberately trying to mislead the U.S. Congress with false information and wrong expectations based on wishes and illusions in order to justify the continuation of a hostile policy toward Iraq.

The political editor added: When the U.S. Congress debates this request, we expect it, for example, to ask the CIA how will it topple the regime in Iraq by spending \$15 million when the Bush administration and its allies spent more than \$70 billion in 1991 and depleted all the reserves of Saudi Arabia, the al-Sabah family, and their future generations, but failed to topple the regime in Iraq.

The political editor added: An all-out war was launched against Iraq, which cost more than \$70 billion. In addition, a blockade has been in place for more than five

years. Despite this, the regime has survived. Meanwhile, the days of the regimes that are allied with the United States—which launched aggression against Iraq—are numbered. Their assets and reserves have been depleted. Is the sum of \$15 million sufficient to achieve what they have failed to achieve militarily, financially, politically, economically, and on the media level?

The political editor wondered: Does the allocation of this sum every year not place an additional burden on U.S. taxpayers without any political result? In his election campaign, President Clinton promised the U.S. citizens he would cut taxes. Have some people become so politically blind that they are no longer able to see facts?

Saddam Appoints New 5th Army Corps Commander

LD1204133595 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in English 1747 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Received by fax; all names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah ad Din, Iraq (11 April)—IBC [Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation] correspondents report the following developments from northern Iraq:

- Saddam Husayn has appointed Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Deham commander of the 5th Army Corps in northern Iraq after the former commander was sacked because of losses to the opposition forces.
- Opposition forces loyal to the Iraqi National Congress approached the 81st Early Warning Battalion near Gweir in the early hours of 11 April. Seven Iraqi army officers and soldiers defected to the opposition bringing 23 Kalashnikov rifles, 1 mortar, 2 communication sets, and official documents.

Report on Resumption of Nuclear Program Denied JN1304101095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0838 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—An official spokesman at the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry has refuted THE SUNDAY TIMES report that an Iraqi scientist was kidnapped in Athens for faxing it documents proving that Iraq has resumed its nuclear program.

The spokesman told INA that the British forgers lack intelligence because they forged a document published by the said paper alleging that it was issued by the Military Industrialization Organization and addressed to the minister's office, and his excellency the minister personally.

The official spokesman added that this address formula is not an Iraqi one because the phrase "his excellency the minister" has not been used in Iraq since the July 1958 revolution. Moreover, David Kyd, official spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna, said the IAEA read THE SUNDAY TIMES

report, was confident that Iraq has not resumed its nuclear program, and reported that it has a monitoring system that confirms this fact.

The official spokesman said the old colonialist mentality still controls the British media in general and London Radio in particular, and there is a special committee for media coordination against Iraq. He said this committee comprises representatives from the British intelligence service and others from the Foreign Office in London. Its task is to fabricate stories and forge facts and instruct papers and the BBC radio and television to disseminate them in order to mislead British public opinion and pursue the policy of enmity against Iraq, especially when it is time for the periodic review of the embargo.

Concluding, he said: The deception campaign led by the BBC radio and television and some British papers like THE SUNDAY TIMES are influenced by the Zionist lobby in England.

Minister Urges Arab, Foreign Nations To Release Assets

JN1204150095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak has urged Arab and foreign nations to release Iraqi assets to enable Iraq to provide necessary medical supplies for its citizens.

In a statement to INA, the minister said the continuation of the unfair blockade against the people of Iraq has led to a serious deterioration in the health situation. Iraq had very high health standards in the past and was free of epidemics.

The minister stressed that the insistence of the Security Council and some Western nations on maintaining the unfair blockade against Iraq, and the lack of funds to import medicine, will cause a rise in child mortality rates, as the WHO and UNICEF have acknowledged. The blockade imposed against Iraq has also had a direct impact on the environmental situation due to the non-availability of basic requirements for water purification plants.

Oil Minister Urges Nation's Return to Oil Market

LD1204165295 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, April 12, IRNA—Iraqi oil minister, Safa' Hadi Jawad al-Dahubi, said Iraq's return to the oil market would not cause any fall in oil prices, Qatari news agency reported. According to the news agency, al-Dahubi said it was necessary for Iraq to return to the oil market. The Iraqi oil minister on Wednesday ended his four-day visit to Qatar. It was the second visit to Qatar by an Iraqi minister in one month. Iraqi foreign minister, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also visited Qatar on March 9.

Secretary-general of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Ruwnau Lukman, is due to head for Qatar on April 18. Baghdad is trying to persuade the international community to lift sanctions on Iraq which were imposed after the Persian Gulf war in 1991. Although economic sanctions against Iraq which bans the country from selling its oil can only be lifted by the United Nations Security Council, Baghdad has already prepared itself for stepping into a new period.

Qatar is the only state among the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) members which has kept its ties with Iraq. It supports Iraq's return to oil market and OPEC.

Russian Interests Said as Important as U.S. Interests

95LH0093A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
25 Jan 95 p 3

[Report on interview with Dr. Vladimir Tytarenko, deputy chief of the Russian Diplomatic Mission in Baghdad, by Mazin Sahib, in Baghdad; date not given: "Why U.S. Insists on Continuation of Sanctions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH met with the deputy chief of the Russian diplomatic mission in Baghdad, Dr. Vladimir Tytarenko, and had a detailed and important dialogue with him about the sanctions imposed on Iraq. At this point, let us assert that, though we might agree or disagree with some of Mr. Tytarenko's views, we are honestly publishing the questions and answers presented at the dialogue.

Mr. Tytarenko has a Ph.D. in modern Arab history and another Ph.D. in Russian foreign policy in the Middle East. Following are the details of the dialogue:

[Sahib] What is the new Russian stand in the Security Council with regard to the sanctions?

[Tytarenko] First of all, the Russian stand is both clear and frank: we are asking the Security Council members to react positively to the positive steps taken by Iraq. Iraq's recognition of Kuwait is one of the most important of these steps. Russian diplomacy is trying to convince the United States and Britain that the Security Council should react positively to the positive Iraqi steps toward executing the resolutions. We also believe that it is time to lift the sanctions imposed against Iraq. Since Iraq recognized Kuwait, the international attitude, especially that of a number of the United Nations Security Council member countries, has been positive. We are very optimistic.

[Sahib] What is the basis for this optimism?

[Tytarenko] We are very optimistic. We think that if Iraq continues having this attitude, the number of countries that approve the lifting of the sanctions will increase. We noticed a change in the Arab countries' stands, and the return of Iraq to the Arab fold. The normalization of

Iraq's relations with the Gulf states, especially with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, will remove many of the difficulties. Presently, Russian diplomacy will try to normalize relations between Iraq and Kuwait. We need time. I am very optimistic.

[Sahib] What do you think would happen if diplomatic efforts to convince the United States and Britain to lift the sanctions fail? Some believe that Washington is putting pressure on Moscow.

[Tytarenko] Russia is not a country that submits to external pressure. We may listen to others' views. However, there is a problem with regard to interpretation of Iraqi execution of Security Council resolutions. We have seen hopeful signs in convincing US and Britain in lifting sanctions.

[Sahib] As an expert in Russian foreign policy in the Middle East, currently, what are the dimensions of Iraqi-Russian relations?

[Tytarenko] Currently, Iraq is one of the most important axes of Russian foreign diplomacy. In the near future, Russian diplomatic efforts in major issues will be based on reinforcing strategic interests. We believe that Russian interests in Iraq in particular and the Middle East as a whole, are not less important than American interests in the region. In fact, we consider the Middle East more important for us, as it lies to the south of Russia and is a geographical extension of our country. Any event in the Middle East has direct repercussions in Russia. We have great economic interests, and trade competition is an issue that countries understand. There are no longer ideological differences between us and the United States, yet, we have sound commercial competition.

[Sahib] In case Washington and London cling to their stubborn stand toward Iraq, what would be the solution?

[Tytarenko] Foremost, Russia has always been all nations' faithful partner. We would like to take balanced and quiet steps; currently, Russia is working through the United Nations Security Council. We believe that the time is ripe for a profound dialogue about Iraq between the United States and Russia. We will explain Russian losses and Russian evaluation of Iraq's execution of the international resolutions to the Americans. We believe that any positive step taken by Iraq should produce a positive counter action from the Security Council. Once Russia has enough evidence pertaining to the execution of all United Nations resolutions, then, we will study all other possibilities for lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq. If Iraq has completely executed the United Nations resolutions, then the United States' stand is unacceptable; therefore, the coordination between Russia, on the one hand, and both China and France on the other, would not be excluded. However, we work quietly and in a convincing manner and leave open all options. Such humanistic aspects as the Iraqi people's suffering because of the sanctions should be taken into consideration.

[Sahib] Do you believe that the American stand can change?

[Tytarenko] We believe that even through using the United Nations, the United States alone cannot impose any resolution. This is because we are in a new world order and the view of other countries cannot be ignored. If the other nations supported the Russian stand and were convinced that Iraq has executed the Security Council resolutions, how can America maintain imposing the sanctions? Americans embrace pragmatic political theories; this will make them reconsider their stand.

[Sahib] Is there a relationship between the Russian stand in Chechnya and her stand vis-a-vis Iraq?

[Tytarenko] There is no relationship between Chechnya and Iraq. We appreciate Iraq's stand regarding this issue. Iraq's stand, declared at all levels, which denoted that events in Chechnya were domestic ones, was a very fair one; we appreciated it.

[Sahib] What are the latest developments there?

[Tytarenko] The military stage has ended. We are trying to replace the military forces with forces belonging to the Ministry of Interior. We are approaching the third stage

which will bring life back to normal and herald Chechnya's reconstruction. The federal government has approved the sum needed to finance reconstruction; estimating losses is still under way.

[Sahib] Is there a new Russian stand with regard to attempts to expand the NATO pact?

[Tytarenko] Presently, we are questioning NATO's goals and the intentions underlying it. We believe that NATO's expansion toward the east is unnatural. Consequently, during the latest encounter between Kozyrev and Christopher, we brought up major reservations. However, the Americans have promised not to include the East European countries in the NATO pact.

[Sahib] What is the Russian alternative?

[Tytarenko] We are a European country, and we belong to the bigger Europe. Consequently, we believe it better to extend the viability of the organization for cooperation and security in Europe because it comprises all European countries and has the viability needed to preserve security on this continent. Presently, within the prevailing quiet atmosphere, we are discussing this issue. Moreover, results of the latest talks point to the American understanding of this issue.

Rabin Against IDF Return to Gaza, Supports Separation

TA1204153795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There was a stormy Knesset debate today, accompanied by unparliamentary-like language, on the security situation and the car-bomb attacks in the Gaza Strip. Likud Chairman Netanyahu called the ministers good-for-nothing fools, and Labor's Hayim Ramon said those who promise no more terrorism are at best liars and at worst just stupid.

In an earlier address to the Labor caucus, the prime minister rejected a demand by Knesset members [MK's] from his party to return the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to the Gaza Strip. Our political correspondent Udi Segal and party affairs correspondent Sefi Hendler sum up the Knesset session:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The special Knesset debate was preceded by a Labor faction meeting which convened to hear the prime minister's announcement in the wake of the bloody events in the Gaza Strip. Rabin devoted a large part of his remarks to the phenomenon of suicide attacks and painted a grim picture of the fundamentalist terrorist wave that has struck Israel.

[Rabin] There must be an extraordinary level of madness to decide to carry out a suicide action, which reflects violent hatred against everything we represent. Before the attack by the two suicide bombers near Bet Lid, preachers sat with them half a day or half a night and prepared them spiritually for the attack, for that terrible madness.

[Segal] Rabin wanted to transmit three messages: First, that he continues to support separation. The constant intermingling between Israelis and Palestinians creates a haven for terrorist attacks, Rabin said. Second, Rabin stressed, the peace talks with the Palestinians will continue:

[Rabin] Any attempt to hold up the negotiations will increase terrorism, not weaken it, and will push a solution further away.

[Segal] The prime minister was signaling to President Weizman, who has reiterated that, in his view, the talks should be stopped.

The prime minister also referred to the demand by six Labor MK's to return the IDF to the Gaza Strip in an action against terrorist nests. Rabin responded angrily:

[Rabin] Those who think there are pinpointed, known, Hamas and Islamic Jihad nests and that the problem is only to reach them simply do not know what they are talking about. Even in Hebron, no one knows where the terrorist nests are. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin on Possible Gaza Statehood, Conditions

TA1304105095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky, Liat Collins, and Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not return to the Gaza Strip, because Israel cannot find the Islamic terrorists there and it has no interest in returning to seething Palestinian areas of discontent, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in a pre-Pessah interview with THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Rabin called upon PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat not just to convict terrorists, but also to arrest all who assist or incite the killers, even if they are Islamic religious leaders.

Rabin's remarks came one day after six Labor MKs [Knesset Member] called on him to allow the IDF to reenter Gaza to track down terrorists.

The premier said he would accept a Palestinian state in Gaza if he thought this would stave off Palestinian demands in the rest of the territories, but the Palestinians would not accept his, even in the interim period.

"If it would be possible, I don't see any problem in it," said Rabin. "I don't believe that any Palestinian will accept it... They (the Palestinians) say to us: 'You signed the DOP (Oslo Declaration of Principles), so implement it.'"

When asked what he thought of the proposal by the six Labor MKs, Rabin replied, "They don't know enough about the problems. They don't know what we are engaged in. I am proud that I took (the IDF) out of the Gaza streets and the alleys of al-Shati', Jabalyah, and al-Nusayrat, al-Burayj, Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah and Rafah."

Besides, Rabin added, Israel would not be able to find the terrorists so easily in Gaza, just as it has a hard time finding cells in areas under Israeli control.

Rabin set terms for 'Arafat to comply with in dealing with terror, suggesting this would help meet the Israel-Palestinian July 1 deadline, when complete negotiations on the interim agreement are supposed to conclude.

Asked to comment on 'Arafat's steps against Islamic militants following the Gaza suicide bombings this week, Rabin replied, "It is not enough he is doing it in the last week or the last few days, unless he (does) it with determination, strength, and (as part of a) continuous (effort).

"What we ask him is, one, to make sure that there is only one armed law enforcement (body); two, (ensure) others will not carry arms, except individuals that will be given permission; three, search in an effective way after those who (either) instigate—religious and not religious—

organize, protect, (or) carry out the terror; to take them out of the area either by courts or administrative detention.

"Since the terrible accident of the bus in Tel Aviv last October, we detained 2,700 in the West Bank for interrogation, administrative detention," Rabin said.

Rabin said he hopes 'Arafat would also take additional measures against militants, such as "prevent(ing) appearances of arms at demonstrations" and that the Palestinian Police "be deployed along the fence of the Gaza strip to prevent those who are trying to (threaten) our patrol near the fence. This is what he has to do." [passage omitted]

PA Antiterror 'Success' To Be Judged Over Time

TA1304110495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says it will take weeks, perhaps months, before any judgments can be made regarding the determination and success of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in dealing with terrorism. The prime minister was speaking after visiting Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer where he met with casualties from Sunday's terrorist attacks in the Gaza Strip, as well as with soldiers wounded during service in Lebanon. After the visit, the prime minister spoke with reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The PA is due to begin trying to collect weapons from Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. There is a certain amount of skepticism about their ability. How do you feel?

[Rabin] Well, we signed agreements—the DOP, the Declaration of Principles, the Cairo agreement that brought about Gaza-Jericho First. The PA took upon itself to maintain law and order in the areas under their control, and I stress, only under their control, in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. It looks that they have taken certain steps, but we know that the struggle against the most lunatic terror organization system, the suicidal terror mission, is very difficult. It's very difficult to cope with it. We know it from our experience. Let's not forget that the suicidal terror mission in 'Afula, Hadera, Tel Aviv, were carried out by people who are residents of Judea and Samaria, and they are under our control. We have learned the lessons, taking measures, and it's a prolonged, determined struggle, and therefore, we cannot judge what the PA is doing, but we'll be able to judge it in a matter of weeks or a few months, to what extent they are determined and continuing to use their determination to cope with this lunatic system of terror.

[Ben-'Ami] How much cooperation, how much coordination is there between Israel and the Palestinians in efforts to deal with terrorism?

[Rabin] We are ready to cooperate. I will not elaborate how much we cooperate and in what ways. [end recording] [passage omitted]

UN Cooperation in Antiterror Struggle Requested

TA1104113395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel has called on the international community to cooperate in combating the terrorist threat posed by groups such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad.

In a letter to the UN secretary general, Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi said seven Israelis and one American citizen were killed and 61 wounded in Sunday's bombings. He said that 125 Israelis have been killed by Palestinian terrorists in 52 separate attacks since Israel and the PLO signed an agreement in September 1993. Ambassador Ya'aqobi said that Israel would not be swayed from its commitment to peace.

Earlier, Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said he was deeply shocked by the attacks and commended Israel and the PLO for continuing their negotiations.

Rabin Reportedly Convenes IAEC; No Details

TA1204162395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The plenum of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission [IAEC] convened in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's office in Jerusalem. Rabin is chairman of the commission. IAEC Director Gid'on Frank presented a survey, and the participants held a discussion, our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports. No further details on the IAEC's discussions are available at this time.

Plenum Meeting Said 'Routine'

TA1304112795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The plenum of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission [IAEC], headed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, convened yesterday at the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem.

IAEC Director General Gid'on Frank presented a review of various issues pertaining to the commission, which was followed by a discussion.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau yesterday asserted that this was merely "a routine meeting" of the IAEC plenum, which convenes once or twice a year. The sources said there was no connection between the timing of yesterday's meeting and the convention in New York of the representatives of signatories to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which is scheduled to begin on Monday [17 April].

Current Syrian Stand Seen as 'More Inflexible'

TA1304050095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 13 Apr 95

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Arye Golan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross began his Passover holiday as soon as he returned from his Middle East trip—a trip that will not go down in U.S. diplomatic annals as a particularly successful one, Israeli sources in Washington glumly summed up.

Ross had left for Damascus and Jerusalem following talks between Ambassadors Rabinovich and al-Mu'allim and with a working paper that was very close to an agreement—and yet he returned with Syrian proposals that widened the gap. The Syrian stand, the Israeli sources assert, is now more inflexible than it was two or three weeks ago. Parties involved in the negotiations believed during Secretary of State Christopher's most recent tour of the region that numerous clauses were agreed on, and that only two issues remained open.

In view of the new Syrian intransigence, the Israeli sources question Damascus' basic stands on peacemaking with Israel. They further mention what they describe as the strident tones of Syrian propaganda and the reinstatement of Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, the veteran chief Syrian delegate, and ask whether Hafiz al-Asad is truly interested in attaining an arrangement based on genuine give-and-take, a realistic timetable, and a willingness to launch an active public relations campaign in support of the arrangement with Israel. Perhaps al-Asad is either unwilling to attain an arrangement, the sources say, or is not prepared to exert himself and pay a price for one. The third possibility is that al-Asad is patiently waiting for the Israeli Government to feel the pressure of time next fall. Such a planned delay is a mistake, the Israeli sources warn, because the prospects of reaching an arrangement are waning as time elapses. [passage omitted]

Lubrani Vows To Retaliate for Katyusha Attacks
NC1204054795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430
GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of occupation affairs in the border strip, has leveled fresh threats against Lebanon. He said Israel will retaliate for the Katyusha attacks on Upper Galilee at the appropriate time. Lubrani's remarks followed joint maneuvers conducted by the Israeli occupation forces and the Agent Lahd militia. Lubrani stressed that those responsible for the rocket attacks will pay the price.

In his statement the Israeli coordinator said the fate of the Lahd militia men is a basic condition in any peace treaty to be signed with Lebanon. Israel will try to ensure the merger of the militia men within Lebanese society, Lubrani added. He said the Lebanese track depends on the Syrian track, which can be described as extremely slow.

Agent Lahd said his militia now possesses 155-mm artillery pieces.

Reports from the south say Lahd militia men reinforced their positions on the Western al-Biq'a front during the past few hours. The Lahd militia brought in two M-113 armored personnel carriers [APC] and one 82-mm mortar gun to the Taw'amat Niha position. The Agent militia also deployed an APC on a ridge overlooking a road linking al-Qatranah with the al-Surayri triangle. Three APC's and a tank were also taken to the Kafr Huna position.

Lubrani: Peace Will End Hizballah as 'Military Force'

TA1204113195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Apr 95 p 12

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hizballah will cease to exist as a military force if peace is reached between Israel and Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on south Lebanon, said yesterday.

Lubrani, who spoke to reporters at the inauguration of a new school in Marj 'Uyun in the security zone, said that in such a case Hizballah was likely to end up "at best a political party."

He also expressed the hope that by then the current regime in Iran, which supplies Hizballah with funds, arms and ideology, would no longer be in control. Nevertheless, he indicated there was still a long way to go before the downfall of the ayatollahs in Iran.

Lubrani was one of the main guests at the inauguration of the new school in Marj 'Uyun, intended for high school pupils. Funding for the \$250,000 school was supplied by Israel as part of the civil aid assistance to security zone residents.

Scores of people, including South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahd, the head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Lebanese Liaison Unit Brig.-Gen. Giyora 'Inbar, senior IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] officers and local dignitaries from the Christian township and its environs, also attended the ceremony.

Lahd told reporters that despite Hizballah's ongoing attacks and recent losses suffered by the SLA, morale was still high. He noted that the SLA was an army and like any military force it periodically suffered casualties.

Lahd charged that the greater anguish and concern was caused by the indiscriminate shelling by Hizballah of civilian areas.

Hizballah's military arm, the Islamic Resistance, is maintaining its pressure on the zone via daily attacks, particularly on SLA targets, combined with an incessant propaganda campaign.

U.S. Senator Hank Brown Arrives for Visit*JN1204115895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 12 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Senator Hank Brown has arrived in Amman on a visit as part of a tour of Morocco, Israel, Egypt, and Syria. During his stay in the country, he will hold talks with a number of officials. Senator Brown, a republican of Colorado, was elected to the Senate in 1990.

Confers With Foreign Minister*JN1304064395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti today received U.S. Senator Hank Brown and his delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues of interest to both sides, led by the peace process and its developments. Al-Kabariti explained the Jordanian viewpoint in this process. He also thanked the U.S. Senate for its position on the issue of canceling Jordan's debts.

It is noteworthy that Brown, who arrived in Amman today, is a Republican Party member. He is also a member of the Senate's Foreign Relations, Judiciary, and Budget Committees.

Hamas Spokesman Summoned Over Recent Statements*JN1304095595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian authorities have summoned Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], who resides in Amman, because of his recent statements which affect another country, as the Jordanian official who announced this today put it. The same official added that Ghawshah, who carries Jordanian citizenship, was summoned yesterday to the office of Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, who warned him about his repeated violations of the law. The official said: Ghawshah has no right to speak in the name of Hamas because it is not officially recognized by Jordan, or to attack another country, or to insult its president.

Yesterday, the Palestinian Authority asked Amman to stop the statements of abuse and slander issued by Hamas from the Jordanian capital.

PA's al-Tarifi Meets With Acting Prime Minister*JN1204165595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah received Jamil al-Tarifi, minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA], at the Prime Ministry

today. Al-Tarifi conveyed a message to His Highness Prince Hasan the regent from Palestinian President 'Arafat. He also conveyed the Palestinian president's greetings to his highness and his congratulations on the full recovery of His Majesty King Husayn.

Al-Tarifi also expressed the PA's keenness on coordinating with Jordan in all areas related to bilateral relations and the peace process. He voiced the PA's eagerness for the establishment of a just, enduring, and comprehensive peace in the region.

The acting prime minister underlined the Jordanian Government's keenness to continue coordination with the Palestinian National Authority in all fields in order to bolster the distinguished Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which should be based on clarity and coordination.

The meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister and minister of information, the foreign minister, and the Palestinian charge d'affairs in Amman.

Conveys Message on Coordination*JN1304080495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13-14 Apr 95 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (Petra)—Jamil al-Tarifi, an envoy of Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat Wednesday [12 April] [conveyed a message to the Jordanian leadership stressing Palestinian keenness to coordinate with Jordan on various issues of common concern.

Mr. al-Tarifi who relayed the message to Acting Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah at a meeting at the Prime Ministry, emphasized that the Palestine National Authority (PNA), was particularly keen on coordinating with the Jordanian leadership in matters related to the peace process with the purpose of attaining a durable and comprehensive peace in the region.

The message addressed to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent contained Mr. 'Arafat's congratulations to Jordan on His Majesty King Husayn's successful recovery from cancer.

Replying to the message Mr. al-Rawabidah reiterated the Kingdom's determination to pursue coordination with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in all fields.

Meanwhile, a technical committee comprising experts from the Ministries of Youth in Jordan and the self-rule areas opened meetings at al-Husayn Youth City Wednesday to discuss details of a protocol to be signed today on cooperation in youth and sports affairs.

The joint committee was formed Tuesday by Minister of Youth 'Awad Khulayfat and PNA delegation head 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi who had voiced Palestinian desire to benefit from Jordanian expertise in youth and sports.

Mr. al-Shu'aybi on Wednesday visited al-Salt City and inspected the sports facilities at the Prince 'Abdullah Sports Complex which has been set up on 36 dunums at a cost of JD 1 million.

Representative to Self-Rule Authority Appointed

JN1304133595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic

13-14 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has told AL-ASWAQ that the Foreign Ministry yesterday received the approval of the Palestinian self-rule authority to appoint Ziyad al-Majali as director of the Jordanian diplomatic representation office in the Palestinian self-rule authority.

Yeltsin Adviser Meets With Prince Hasan

JN1204175495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Prince Hasan the regent received Abdulakh Mikitayev, adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The meeting dealt with Jordanian-Russian relations and the need to enhance the spirit of moderateness and promote it as world perception. The meeting was attended by Yanal Hikmat, adviser to his majesty the king.

Denies Mission To Push Citizenship

JN1304102495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English

13-14 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A senior Russian Government official on Wednesday [12 April] dismissed reports that he was visiting Jordan on a mission to grant Russian citizenship to Jordanians of Chechen, Circassian and Dagestani origins.

Abdulakh Mikitayev, director of Moscow's department of citizenship affairs, said his talks here over the last two days only dealt with familiarising Jordanian officials on Russian laws that deal with nationalities and citizenship as a matter of routine.

"In principle, all citizens of the republics of the former Soviet Union who live outside their homeland but have roots there are eligible for Russian nationality without prejudice to their present citizenship," Mr. Mikitayev told reporters in an informal briefing at the Russian embassy.

"My talks here with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior deal with this issue, and I familiarised them with the nationality laws adopted by the Russian Government in February 1992," he said.

"We are not launching a campaign to grant Russian nationality to anyone; nor are we propagating any return of such people to Russia," he said. "It is up to the individual to decide whether he or she wants Russian nationality and the fulfillment of the requirements would determined the process.

"It will be unbearable for the Russian Federation to absorb any massive return" there of people who qualify for Russian nationality under the new law, he said, adding that 45 million to 50 million ex-Soviets live outside their homeland.

The law, which allows dual nationality, should be seen "in a humanitarian context" said the Russian ambassador to Jordan, Aleksandr Saltanov, pointing out that the legislation "does not specify any nationality (of the ex-Soviet republics) or ethnic minority."

This would apply not only to Chechens, Circassians and Dagestanis who are living outside the former Soviet Union but also everyone with roots in the 15 ex-Soviet republics, he said.

Mr. Mikitayev, who visited Syria before coming here and left for Cairo later Wednesday, said he did not have any figure on Jordanians who trace to their origins to the ex-Soviet republics.

In Cairo, Mr. Mikitayev will attend a meeting of Russian consular officials in the Middle East and review "how our consulates abroad conform with the new laws..."

In Syria, he said, he was told that up to 60,000 people live in that country who could qualify for Russian nationality. "This is a figure provided by a Syrian institution and I do not have any Russian estimate."

Ambassador Saltanov said meanwhile that two Jordanians of Chechen origin who were captured by Russian forces during the recent Russian military intervention in Chechnya were released.

"They have been released and returned home," said Mr. Saltanov "I have no outstanding official query from the (Jordanian) Foreign Ministry," he said.

Mr. Mikitayev's comments on the issue suggested that Jordan had sought European help to secure the release of the two.

Mr. Mikitayev, member of a panel which monitors the human rights situation in Chechnya, said that a delegation representing the Organisation on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) visiting Russian recently had raised the issue of the two Jordanians.

The Russian official, who said was the delegation when the subject was raised, added: "We were told the problem has been settled."

Speaker Meets German Delegation on Peace Process

JN1304122495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100

GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Hayil al-Surur has underscored Jordan's commitment to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace

in the Middle East. He said Jordan is also seeking to achieve prosperity and stability for all peoples in the region.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation of Germany's Socialist Party, Mr. al-Surur said the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty has undergone through all constitutional changes and was overwhelmingly endorsed by Parliament. He pointed out that some opposition political parties in Jordan are not in favor of the mechanism of concluding the treaty. Otherwise, they are not against reaching peace in the area.

Mr. al-Surur reiterated that Jordan wanted its citizens to actually benefit from the fruits of peace, especially those relating to improving their living conditions. He underlined the significance of holding the forthcoming international conference for economic development in the Middle East and North Africa. In this regard, Mr. al-Surur asked Germany in particular and Europe in general to help Jordan economically to confront challenges facing the country.

The house speaker also briefed the German delegation on Jordan's democratic process and the role of the lower chamber of Parliament in furthering freedom and democracy in Jordan.

Paper: Israeli Reoccupation of Gaza 'Illusion'

JN1304074895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
13 Apr 95 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Illusion of Reoccupying the Gaza Strip"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Approximately one year after the occupation forces withdrew from the Gaza Strip, some Israeli circles are still considering the idea of reoccupying the Strip. When they withdrew from the Strip, the Israeli soldiers rejoiced over leaving it once and for all.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did well when he explained to certain circles in his party that the idea of returning to the Gaza Strip is unrealistic and will not serve any of Israel's declared objectives. Moreover, such an ill-omened return would completely undermine the Oslo agreement.

Amid such an exchange of ideas among the Israelis, it is perhaps appropriate to remind those concerned with the peace process that a speedy implementation of its scheduled steps is the only realistic way to reply to the acts of violence and confront the extremism that is increasing on both sides.

Hence, we call on Yitzhaq Rabin's government to rid itself of the pressures exerted by the extremist Israeli right wing, stop responding to the settlers' blackmail, and open the way completely for implementing the next phase of the self-rule agreement, including the redeployment of the [Israeli] Army and holding the elections if this government really intends to fulfill its declared

commitments in accordance with this agreement. The longer the implementation of this agreement is delayed, the larger and more violent the forces arrayed against it will become.

Daily: Economic Meeting May Be 'Disappointment'

JN1304115595 Amman THE STAR in English
13-18 Apr 95 pp 1, 3

["Special to THE STAR" by Ben Wedeman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The mega-meeting on Middle Eastern development scheduled for Amman later this year may turn out to be as big a disappointment as its Casablanca predecessor. Confusion, duplication of effort, unrealistic expectations, inadequate local infrastructure and the faltering Palestinian-Israeli track may all stand in the way of success.

Despite this, participants at this week's meeting of the Amman conference's Steering Committee put on a brave public face. "Very successful," was how U.S. Middle East Coordinator Dennis Ross described the meeting. At a press conference afterwards Ross stated that "Those who have made peace need to see that there are benefits for having done so."

Possibly realizing that the fruits of peace are withering on the vine, Jordan has scaled down its expectations considerably. At last October's Casablanca meeting it presented a document outlining 121 projects valued at more than \$18 billion. This "wish-list" has been paired down considerably to just 56 projects in the fields of energy, industry, transportation, communication, tourism and water, with a price tag of \$10.4 billion.

One of the lessons of the Casablanca conference was that expectations should not be allowed to get out of proportion, remarked Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin during a closed session of the meeting. It is "unlikely...that the Amman conference or any such conference will bear immediate fruits," Beilin said. "The most important thing," he added, "is exposure between politicians and businessmen and between businessmen themselves. If we create this matchmaking process, that will bring success to the peace process."

Behind closed doors, the message from the Palestinian delegation was decidedly downbeat. Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, who lead the Palestinian delegation, warned that if help for the Palestinian autonomous areas doesn't come soon, the Amman conference will be to no avail.

"The Palestinians are committed to this process, (which is an) excellent opportunity to promote business between the private sectors and consolidate the peace process," he said.

The PNA "wants the sponsors of peace process to know that the economic situation in Palestine is deteriorating," he said. If current trends continue, Dr. 'Abdallah

warned, "I think there will be no big Palestinian businesses participating in the Amman conference." Quoting an unnamed "World Bank expert," he warned that the economy of the Gaza Strip "is dying."

If Gaza's economy does collapse, he said, the Palestinian delegation will "bring a list of claims, rather than a list of projects. We want to participate and cooperate but we want your help."

The message to the Israeli delegation, said Dr. 'Abdallah, "is that the measures they are taking are the main reason for the situation. We acknowledge their security concerns but (cannot accept) measures which effect the Palestinian economy."

Responding to Dr. 'Abdallah's statement, Ross said "obviously there has to be (not only) recognition of Israeli security concerns, but also actual performance on the other," referring to rising American concern over the PNA's ability to control elements opposed to the peace process.

The proposed Middle East development bank is also a point of conflict. The U.S., Jordan and Israel favor its establishment, but others, including Gulf states and the European Community, are less enthusiastic. EU officials are worried that the bank will be yet another cumbersome and expensive international bureaucracy, and say that the World Bank, for all its obvious defects, is a far better—and much less costly—mechanism for the task.

Some participants were unhappy with the entire proposed format of the Amman meeting. In comments to the Amman daily, AL-ASWAQ, the head of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association Hamdi al-Tabba' complained that there was a regrettable lack of coordination between the government and the Jordanian private sector. They had failed to discuss their priorities, and thus were heading toward the meeting, scheduled for 29 October, with no clear strategy.

He asserted that Jordan should not engage in discussions with Israel on bilateral projects until Israel has lived up to all its commitments to the Kingdom.

Al-Tabba' also said that many companies would not attend the October meeting because the participation fees were exorbitant. He recently returned from a trip to Denmark and France where he said businessmen had asked him to lobby the government to reconsider the fees. He went on to say that the group which organized the Casablanca conference was a commercial venture and was only in it for the money.

There was also an acute ignorance among some of the participants of Jordan's infrastructural shortcomings. A representative of the World Economic Forum, one of the bodies involved in the meeting's organization, suggested that participants keep in touch via Internet, a computer network. He clearly was unaware that in Jordan Internet in the form currently available at reasonable prices elsewhere simply doesn't exist here.

THE STAR has also learned that Minister of Trade and Industry 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib was upset with the emphasis of press coverage at the meeting, complaining that it focused excessively on Ross' presence, ignoring its economic significance. On the other hand, given that very little concrete information was provided to the press, and that reporters were barred from attending most of the meeting, to do otherwise would have been difficult.

And if all that wasn't enough, with the current short-age of hotel rooms in Amman some of the participants may have to bring tents and sleeping bags. According to a Western participant who attended the Steering Committee meeting, one of the reasons behind postponement of the conference from April of this year until October was the inability of Amman's hotels to house the number of expected participants. More than 2000 businessmen and officials from over 60 countries attended the Casablanca conference, in addition to hundreds of journalists.

Hizballah on 'Arafat Decision To Disarm Palestinians

NC1304071895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has said that Yasir 'Arafat surprised no one when he unleashed his executioners at the so-called limited self-rule authority to carry out a host of missions in response to an explicit desire by the Zionists and the Americans. He began with establishing a state security court that served as a staging point for 'Arafat to embark on a new program to (?suffocate) the (word indistinct) and persecuted Palestinian people. He tried to prove himself capable of controlling things and competent to serve Zionist interests and (word indistinct) on the soil of Gaza and Jericho. Before that, he had shown his failure and impotence to achieve security and peace for the usurper, criminal enemies of humanity.

Hizballah said in a statement that 'Arafat was not content with distorting facts and practicing treason, which led to the loss of the rights, the (word indistinct), and the cause. He worked to get the Palestinian people into a dark tunnel and push them toward a civil war that will leave this people with no hope and 'Arafat with no authority through which he can satisfy his historic lust for power.

The statement said the decision to strip the Palestinian people of their weapons, which was drafted between Tel Aviv and Washington, and the campaigns of organized arrest of the heroes of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad reveal the level of downfall and foolishness to which 'Arafat has plunged. He accepts such a responsibility at a time when the Jews are sowing corruption on every inch of Palestine's land, inside and outside of Gaza, and at a time when Jewish settlers are still oppressing our kinsfolk in the occupied territories, looting their means of living, and annexing their remaining lands and villages under the eyes and ears of the world. These settlers are heavily armed with all types of weapons that are offered and backed by the Zionist government, and they are under full official protection from the Israeli occupation authorities.

In its statement, Hizballah condemned the criminal campaign, noting that it is part of the project of sedition and fighting that threatens (word indistinct) the mujahid Palestinian people. The statement stressed that the valiant weapon represents the symbol of pride and (word indistinct), the symbol that preserves the presence, freedom, and identity of the Palestinian people. The statement added: He who (word indistinct) unable to defend even [words indistinct] before the leaders of the enemy is less able to extinguish the glow of the blessed intifadah and remove weapons raised by mujahidin and honorable men in the face of usurpers and occupiers.

Hizballah Official Views Talks With Saudi Ambassador

NC1204085095 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Bayram]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The meeting held on Monday [3 April] between the Hizballah leadership and Saudi Ambassador Ahmad al-Kuhaymi at the Hizballah secretary general's headquarters in Bi'r al-'Abid was an unusual event. It followed years of deep-seated hostility between Saudi Arabia and the party and its politics. [passage omitted]

Hizballah sources confirmed that the meeting lasted around 90 minutes and was held at the Saudi ambassador's request.

Husayn al-Khalil, the head of Hizballah's Political Bureau, who took part in the meeting with Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, stressed that the meeting was "characterized by complete frankness between the two sides. We unequivocally voiced all our observations and positions, particularly on the Arab-Israeli conflict. We focused on a general discussion of the Islamic world's issues and problems. There were identical views on the need for a serious call for Islamic unity and for condemning anything that incites sectarian sedition between Muslims, particularly as countless dangers are threatening the Islamic world from Chechnya to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, and south Lebanon. Briefly, there was a call to bypass all the sectarian issues that are being raised and are exhausting the Muslims' strength and to concentrate on strengthening the efforts to unite Muslims regardless of their creeds.

"The issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict was also raised during the meeting together with the crisis in the peace negotiations and Israel's lack of seriousness about reaching a just peace. There were identical views on the issue of denouncing the rush by some Arab countries to normalize relations with the Israeli enemy and remove all the barriers with the Zionist enemy, which continues to suppress our people in occupied Palestine, south Lebanon, and western al-Biqa'.

"The discussions also dealt with the situation in the south and western al-Biqa', Israel's policy of hitting and destroying peaceful villages, and the naval blockade. The two sides firmly condemned these barbaric attacks and asserted the people's right to confront this enemy, which has usurped territory and committed crimes against the people."

He added: "Ambassador al-Kuhaymi emerged from his first meeting with us happy and pleased by our frankness and our review of all the issues."

We asked him: Did you discuss the fatwa issued by Saudi Mufti Shaykh 'abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz that allowed peace

with Israel? He answered: "This was among several issues discussed, particularly those concerning relations with Israel."

We asked al-Khalil: How do you explain this Saudi openness toward the party despite the extremely tense relations between you and the Saudis?

Al-Khalil said: "This question should be addressed to the ambassador himself because he is more informed about his country's policy. My own personal view is that some parties might have clear ideas about the party and its policies and have started to become more open with us."

We asked: How do you justify your openness toward Saudi Arabia?

Al-Khalil told us: "They asked to meet and talk with us. We were very frank when we expounded our views and positions."

But what this Hizballah leader did not say was that this meeting would not have taken place had there not been a relaxation in ties between Tehran and Saudi Arabia.

Al-Hirawi Receives al-Shar', al-Asad Message

JN1304125795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at B'abda Palace this afternoon. The meeting

was attended by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Al-Shar' relayed a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the outcome of the visit to Damascus by Dennis Ross, the special U.S. Middle East coordinator.

Al-Shar' arrived in Beirut this morning. He was welcomed upon arrival at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and senior Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials.

The foreign minister told reporters that he was carrying a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

President al-Hirawi Pardons 2 Prisoners

NC1304074095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday signed the first amnesty decree during his current term in office. The amnesty affects two persons who were involved in an attempt to assassinate him a few years ago. They are Antoine Ilyas Jabbur and Shihadah Yusuf Shawwah, who were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 5 to 20 years at hard labor.

The decree was signed by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, and Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah.

Official Stresses 'No Progress' in Ross Tour

JN1304141095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
11 Apr 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—Syria yesterday responded to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statements in which he said he rules out the possibility of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights to a pre-5 June 1967 borderline.

A high-level Syrian official stressed to AL-HAYAH that Syria's position demanding an Israeli troop withdrawal to the 4 June borderline is "principled and irreversible," adding that his country "will not bargain over this principle."

The Syrian official said that "Israel's commitment to complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights that were occupied in 1967 is the key to solution on the Syrian track and Syria will not accept anything less." He noted that Peres' statements aim to "cover for the subversive role which (Yitzhaq) Rabin's government is playing against the Middle East peace process."

The Syrian official stressed that there has been "no progress" in the recent tour by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the peace process. Syrian quarters, meanwhile, expressed pessimism about the outcome of Ross' tour after President Hafiz al-Asad stressed that Israel is trying to "evade the requirements of peace." [passage omitted]

'Sources': Japan May Send Troops to UN Golan Force

JN1204142995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Japanese sources have told Radio Monte Carlo that the Japanese delegation that arrived in Syria yesterday met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi today.

The sources said the delegation discussed the possible participation of Japanese forces in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force stationed in al-Qunaytirah, following reports that a Canadian battalion is going to leave.

The delegation visited al-Qunaytirah in the liberated part of the Golan this morning to see for itself how these forces operate. The Japanese sources said Japan has not yet decided whether or not to send forces. A decision will be made following the Japanese delegation's return home to brief officials on what it saw in Syria and heard from its officials.

The sources denied that one of the objectives of this delegation is the discussion of the bilateral and multilateral aspects of the peace process. The delegation comprises eight deputies from parties in the coalition government in Japan. These parties are the Liberal

Democratic Party, the Democratic Socialist Party, and the Japan New Party. The Japanese delegation is scheduled to leave the country tomorrow morning.

Al-Shar' Welcomes Proposed Japanese Role

JN1204153595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received the Japanese parliamentary delegation which comprises coalition government parties in Japan, in addition to representatives of the Prime Ministry, Foreign Ministry, and Defense Ministry. The delegation is led by (Masaruha Yakawa,) head of the National Security Affairs Committee and representative of the Japanese Democratic Socialist Party in the Parliament.

The meeting was attended by the director of the International Organizations Desk at the Foreign Ministry, and (Yumio Atshida,) Japan's ambassador in Damascus.

The foreign minister said Syria welcomes the Japanese proposal on the possibility of participating in the UN disengagement Observer force.

The prime minister answered questions posed by the Japanese delegation on the developments of the peace process, and emphasized that Syria is committed to the peace process based on the Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle, and stressed the need for a just and comprehensive peace that spreads security and stability in the region.

Talks at the meeting dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Japan and ways of bolstering them in various fields.

UN Commander Sets Conditions

OW1304060295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0429 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, April 12 KYODO—The commander of United Nations peacekeepers on the Golan Heights told Japanese fact finders Wednesday that Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to be dispatched here must be ready to serve longer than a year and must be proficient in English.

Maj. Gen. Johannes Kusters of the Netherlands and other leaders of the UN Disengagement Force (UNDOF) met with a Japanese Government mission and another fact-finding group from the ruling coalition parties to lay out some strict conditions for SDF participation in peacekeeping operations in the Israeli-held Golan Heights. The UN wants Japanese personnel to replace 50 Canadian Armed Forces members assisting with transport operations since the Canadians tour of duty concludes this summer.

Kusters, however, expressed reservations late last month about Japanese participation in the operations, citing the language barrier as a major obstacle. He told a Japanese

daily that he did not approve of plans to include SDF personnel in the UNDOF operations. In a meeting that lasted more than two hours Wednesday, Kusters told the Japanese that they should not expect an SDF tour of duty to be over in a year, but noted that the length of any Japanese dispatch will be determined between the UN and Japanese Government.

Kusters said he would welcome the Japanese, but added that it would be a waste of their training to return after only one year on the mission. The Dutch commander also noted that the transport cargo would be comprised of goods sought by armed forces in the area and the Japanese would also have to transport weapons and ammunition for their own self-defense if tensions mounted. The Canadian forces transport goods to Israel and Syria on both sides of the area of separation. This is seen as a potentially more dangerous operation than manning the checkpoints in the disengagement area and checking for cease-fire violations.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', also told the two missions Wednesday that he welcomed Japanese participation in the UN peacekeeping operations.

The coalition group is led by Masaru Hayakawa of the Social Democratic Party [Social Democratic Party of Japan - SDPJ] and the government team is led by Katsunari Suzuki, head of the international peace cooperation headquarters at the Prime Minister's Office.

The two missions will visit Syria, Jordan, and Israel and observe members of armed forces from other countries participating in the UNDOF based in Damascus. The missions are also scheduled to visit Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, on Friday and Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, on Sunday.

Al-Shar' Confers With U.S. Senator Brown

JN1304095795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received U.S. Republican Senator Hank Brown, head of the U.S. Senate Middle Eastern and African Affairs Subcommittee. The U.S. ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with the regional situation and the peace process and the reasons it has stumbled. They also reviewed Syrian-U.S. relations.

PLO To Attend Damascus Solidarity Conference

JN1104083895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 Apr 95 p 20

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The PLO will participate in the three-day Afro-Asian solidarity conference, scheduled to open in Damascus today. The conference is

expected to be attended by 300 participants representing member states and organizations.

The PLO delegation, led by Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki, left Amman yesterday. The delegation comprises Mahmud al-Khalidi, Zuhayr al-Khatib, 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Atiri, Fu'ad al-Balbisi, Anwar 'Abd-al-Hadi, and Dr. Jamal al-Khatib.

Before leaving Amman, 'Abbas Zaki told AL-DUSTUR that the Palestinian delegation will present four working papers on limiting nuclear weapons, the Arab-Israeli conflict, solidarity with the Lebanese people and Syria's steadfastness, and the future strategy.

He added that in the Syrian capital he will meet with representatives of the factions affiliated with the PLO, particularly the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and with anyone else who wishes to meet with him.

He said Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, will arrive in Damascus next week to meet and open a dialogue with representatives of the Palestinian opposition in implementation of a decision by the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO Executive Committee in their recent meetings in Tunis.

The conferees are expected to issue a political statement reaffirming their support of the Palestinian people's struggle to gain their national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent states with its capital in holy Jerusalem.

Palestinian Authority Accused of 'Repression'

JN1204141595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The situation in the occupied territories, especially in the Gaza Strip, is worse than ever before. This deterioration threatens a tragic and disastrous escalation. It warns of a Palestinian civil war in which the Israeli occupation authorities manipulate the symbols of the self-rule authority to kill Palestine's sons on their land, while practicing terrorism, repression, and liquidation.

This clearly shows that what is happening in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories is the result of the Oslo agreement and the subsequent deals between the limited self-rule authority and the Israeli government. The settlement Israel wanted, and into which it drew the Palestinian side, is based on ignoring and violating Palestinian national rights, the imposition of Israeli conditions, and the bowing acceptance of these conditions by the symbols of the self-rule authority. Hence, this authority and its organizations are now the partner of the Israeli occupation forces in striking at and liquidating the Palestinian people's rights. Because they are a

security instrument in Israel's hand, the Palestinian police will carry out what the occupation forces failed to do in the years after the aggression of June 1967. This is how to interpret the Palestinian Authority's measures in Gaza—repression and detention of the Palestinian people on behalf of, or at the instigation of, the Israeli forces.

The Oslo agreement caused very serious and dangerous damage to the Palestine question and the process toward a just and comprehensive peace. It produced a tense and explosive situation. Now, the Palestinian territories are seeing the repercussions of that agreement. By bowing to Israel's conditions, the self-rule authority began this war and expanded it in a manner that will have grave consequences.

This authority will eventually bear the responsibility for the dangerous measures and steps it takes. It will be responsible for the disastrous conditions that have begun to appear, at the hands of an authority that entrenches occupation and liquidates the Palestine question.

After instigating the self-rule authority to play its role in striking at the Palestinian forces opposed to the Oslo agreement under the pretext of combating terrorism, the Israeli government has repeatedly expressed its satisfaction. It has emphasized this is the only way to implement the Oslo agreement and impose capitulative conditions and articles on the Palestinian people. However, such gambles continue to face great resistance and sacrifice. The people have proven they are stronger than the partnership between the occupation forces and the self-rule authority, because no one is can tamper with the destiny of a people.

Capitulative and unjust settlements have nothing to do with peace. They are the opposite of a just and comprehensive peace based on Israel's full withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, and a serious guarantee of national and pan-Arab rights in a manner that preserves dignity and protects the future.

Undoubtedly, adherence to the constants and principles of the just and comprehensive solution is the only thing that will guarantee the interests of all parties in realizing the aspired peace which ends occupation, oppression, and aggression. Only this will open a new stage of tranquility, security, and peace. Separate deals and partial settlements will further complicate and exasperate the situation in the region.

Anyone eager for peace is also eager to meet its requirements, principles, and pillars—led by returning the land and ensuring rights and dignity for all without flaw or illusion.

Paper Sees Palestinian 'Civil War' Looming in Gaza

JN1304103895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The serious developments in the Gaza Strip signal the possibility of the outbreak of a Palestinian civil war, which Israel is planning for in order to create pretexts to absolve it of implementing the second part of the Oslo agreement, which essentially lacks the simplest constituents of right and justice.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Fears of a Palestinian civil war are growing, particularly in light of the self-rule authority's insistence on executing the decision it has made, inspired by the Rabin government, to disarm the Palestinian resistance men and to prevent them from carrying out any activity against the Israelis. This decision and the preceding harassment and arrest campaigns, which included more than 350 people loyalist to Hamas [the Islamic Resistance] Movement and the Islamic Jihad Movement, have led to an extremely serious escalation of tension and explosions. This has also widened the gap between the masses of the Palestinian people and the self-rule authority, which has completely submitted to the Israeli Government's will.

AL-THAWRAH says: The volatile situation in the Gaza Strip and the escalating suicide operations inside Israel have proven that partial agreements and incomplete phased solutions cannot eliminate the causes of tension and violence or achieve any form of security and stability in the region. This is because these agreements, whose parties and peddlers try to disregard the facts of the conflict and ignore the major required factors in the Middle East, are weak and fragile, and will collapse and vanish sooner or later.

Radio on Components of 'Viable' Peace

JN1304142895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: It goes without saying that comprehensive and durable peace is contingent upon an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, or at least upon a specific Israeli commitment to do so in implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on which the peace process was based. Israel must honor such a commitment. This should be axiomatic.

Nonetheless, the Israeli prime minister recently announced that Israel will not withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders on the Golan. This shows Israel is evading the requirements of just peace. Israel is attempting to mask this evasion by speaking of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations. This progress exists nowhere but in the allegations of Israeli officials, and in the Israeli media.

Statements by Israeli officials about a partial withdrawal from the Golan threaten the peace process with collapse. To add insult to injury, Israel's conception of security

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arrangements also jeopardizes this process. It is unreasonable for Israel to be given a free hand to acquire weapons of mass destruction while the Arabs, and even some other countries in the region, are being asked to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It is neither sensible nor acceptable for Israel to grant itself an edge over Syria regarding these security arrangements. This is because peace can only be based on equitability [takafu'], balance [tawazun], and equality [tasaww]. If it advances the argument of territorial depth, which is unacceptable in the first place, Israel should not overlook the fact that modern weapons have rendered irrelevant the significance of territorial depth. As a matter of fact, Israel has chosen to forget that former U.S. President George Bush clearly noted this in a speech he delivered enunciating the elements of the U.S. initiative that produced the Madrid conference.

Moreover, it has to be acknowledged that it is the Arabs who are being compromised. The half century since Israel's inception is replete with a large-scale Israeli attack on the Arabs almost every 10 years. The first of these attacks occurred in 1948. This was followed by the tripartite aggression launched in 1956, and the June 1967 aggression, not to mention Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1978, as well as Israel's second Lebanon invasion of 1982. The last invasion was codenamed "Peace for Galilee". We also remember the scorched-earth policy carried out by Israel in 1993. The operation carried out to pursue this policy was codenamed "Operation Accountability".

Well, the past five decades are replete with Israeli attacks on Arabs. In the same vein, they are replete with Israeli violations of established security arrangements. The Hula Basin area in the Galilee, for example, was demilitarized in accordance with the truce agreement signed in 1949. Nonetheless, Israel drained this basin in the early 1950's, and thus gained further strategic gains, not to mention that by so doing it violated the security arrangements. It follows from this that it is the Arabs who are being compromised. Consequently, security arrangements must be equal [mutasawiyatan] on both sides, as Syria demands.

Undoubtedly, the world and its peoples are aware of the great efforts Syria has made to facilitate the peace process, and of the serious commitment it has made to world peace, and to promoting the interests of peoples and states. Syria has expressed this commitment by insisting on the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions. Obviously, states and peoples support the Syrian position, which maintains that the achievement of comprehensive and viable peace is contingent upon complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, and also upon balanced [mutawazinah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], and equal [mutasawiyah] arrangements. This means the only viable peace is a just peace that ensures the rights and dignity of all.

Press: No Post-Peace Talks Before Peace Prevails

JN0804064395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 8 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a comment on the Middle East peace process in its "AL-THAWRAH Issues" column, AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria rejects all of Israel's attempts at extortion and the imposition of the status quo. The paper says Syria has alerted the international community to the dangers of Israeli behavior and stressed to the United States, as the sponsor of the peace process, the need to assume its responsibilities to bind Israel to the bases of the peace process and the implementation of the resolutions on which the peace process is based.

The paper says Syria rejects—and will continue to reject and urges all Arabs to reject—any discussions with Israel on the post-peace era as long as peace itself has not been achieved and as long as Israel rejects its bases in part and parcel and insists on occupation and settlement activity.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Thus, Syria is defending pan-Arab issues and preventing the deterioration of the Arab situation and the conversion of the region into an Israeli estate. Syria will not relinquish its territory or cede its national and pan-Arab rights. The peace battle is nothing but a battle to defend pan-Arab existence.

TISHRIN editorializes on equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements. It comments on a statement by Shim'on Peres claiming that the main obstacle to the negotiations is the Syrian demand for equality [musawah] in security arrangements.

TISHRIN stresses that if this indicates anything, it indicates a lack of seriousness and an obvious disregard for the bases and pillars of peace. The paper says the security arrangements Israel wants at the expense of Syria and its national sovereignty prove once again Israel's ill intentions and its efforts to control the region. Israel is completely aware that Syria will never accept an unjust and unbalanced [ghyar mutawazin] peace or an agreement that compromises its sovereignty and dignity.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria has made it unequivocally clear that it wishes to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Syria has sincerely and honestly responded to the international efforts. However, we believe nobody expects Syria to offer its territory to Israel or to mortgage its sovereignty. If they really want to boost the peace process, Israeli officials should not waste time and efforts by raising issues rejected in advance. Syria supports a just peace and just ['adillah] security arrangements. Before anything else, Syria is interested in having all its occupied territory restored.

**Committee Calls For Confronting Israeli
'Intransigence'**

JN1304064895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Committee in Syria has stressed the need to confront Israel's intransigence with a unified Arab position, coordination, and solidarity in the field of pan-Arab security.

In a working paper the committee presented last night during the 12th meeting of Arab Afro-Asian peoples' solidarity committee, it called on the Arab governments and all the popular Arab forces, institutions, trade unions, and organizations, and Arab thinkers and intellectuals to stress, in their stands and actions, the need to clear the Arab atmosphere, to tackle all problems, and to formulate a strategy for collective action.

The committee also stressed the need to confront Israel's intransigence by a unified Arab position, to stop panting after the establishment of relations with Israel, and to abide by the rules of the Arab boycott until Israel heeds the will of international legitimacy, complies with the bases of a just and comprehensive peace by withdrawing fully from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all the occupied Arab territories, and until it recognizes the Palestinian people's national rights.

Israel's Peace Stand, Separate Accords Discussed

JN1304083895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-BATH says: It has become clear that through the recent regional tour of Dennis Ross, coordinator of the Middle east peace process, after the resumption of negotiations in Washington on the ambassadorial level under the auspices of and with the participation of

the United States, Israel has not dealt seriously with the current opportunity to give a push forward to the peace process. In fact, it has killed this opportunity by preoccupying the talks one time with formal and unimportant issues, and another time with impossible demands.

AL-BATH adds: Although a long time has passed on the U.S. initiative, and two governments succeeded each other in Israel, one a Likud government under Yitzhaq Shamir, and the other a Labor government under Yitzhaq Rabin, the just and comprehensive peace was not achieved.

Regarding U.S. participation in the peace process, AL-BATH says: This participation in this process has ranged from the job of a mailman to a participant in conveying opinions and presenting alternatives and proposals. However, this has failed to put the peace process on the track leading to the set objective. Neither has this stopped Israel's evasion of a just and comprehensive peace by resorting to secret, partial, and separate agreements that do not establish peace, spread justice, satisfy a people, or conform with the bases the United States accepted in its initiative.

AL-BATH stresses: The booby-trapped agreements sought by Israel's rulers are staggering and collapsing. Those behind these agreements have begun to turn from leaders of national struggle into refugees and executioners of their own people under the protection of the aggressors and usurpers. They seek to please enemy leaders by besieging, repressing, and persecuting their people.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BATH says: The Israeli rulers have managed to deceive some parties and have led them into the trap of their own actions. However, Syria, which has accepted a just and comprehensive peace with courage and sense of responsibility, knows that peace has a door through which Israel must enter if it really wants to achieve peace; namely, respecting international legitimacy, implementing its resolutions, and respecting the other parties' sovereignty and dignity.

Afghanistan

Russian Aircraft Continue 'Savage Attacks'

LD1204183995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The invading Russian aircraft continued their savage attacks last night and bombarded some areas in Badakhshan Province.

According to reports which reached BAKHTAR, the Russian jet bombers violated the sanctity of our country's airspace last night and intensively bombarded Jowzgan village, located around Yaftal district, seven km from the capital of Badakhshan Province. As a result of these savage attacks the people in this area sustained loss of life and material. The exact figure of the losses has not yet been reported. The Russian invaders used SU-25 and SU-23 aircraft in these aerial attacks and dropped 20 bombs in six sorties. During these savage aerial attacks, in addition to loss of life, some agricultural land and orchards sustained heavy damage. It should be added that the CIS aircraft, in particular the Russian planes, have been continuously bombarding areas in the northern provinces of the country for the last three nights.

Envoy Says 'Foreign Powers' Support Taliban

LD1204170295 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April, 12, IRNA—Taliban group is an un-Islamic mercenary group which is supported by foreigners, Afghan ambassador to Tehran Seyyed Mohammad Kheyrkhan said here Wednesday.

Speaking in a press conference at the Afghanistan embassy here the Afghan diplomat added that Talebans took advantage of lack of government's presence in southern provinces and at the beginning through demagogical slogans such as struggle for saving people, restoring justice and killing enemies of the people, created a sense of optimism among Afghan people. However, their un-Islamic behaviour, revealed their true face to the people.

Foreign media support for the Talebans, their access to advanced weapons and large sums of dollars and their enmity with Islamic movements, especially Iran, are signs of 'foreign powers' support for the group, Kheyrkhan added.

Kheyrkhan refused to name the countries that support the Talebans. He said fortunately the Afghans have become aware of the true nature of the group. He said in several cases the Talebans have stolen peoples properties, closed girls' schools and prevented women's social activities in the areas under their control.

Most of Taliban members, who have fictitious names, are generals of the former communist regime of Afghanistan who pretend to be Islamic and their aim is cheating

people, the Afghan ambassador said. "At present the prime goal of the Afghan government is restoring peace and stability to Afghanistan and we believe the existence of a strong central government in Afghanistan is to the interest of its neighbours," Kheyrkhan said.

Elaborating on present situation in Afghanistan, he said that fortunately most of Afghanistan's problems are solved and Kabul is at the hand of government Islamic forces.

Kheyrkhan termed Kabul-Tehran ties as good and said that in light of the cultural and religious commonalities, Afghan people are interested in further expansion of bilateral ties.

Bangladesh

Views on H. Clinton Visit, Water Resources

BK1204162795 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Apr 95 p 5

[Article by Lt. Col. (ret'd) M.A. Latif Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We warmly welcome the visit of Hillary Rodham Clinton, the First Lady of the United States of America to Bangladesh. It is indeed encouraging to know that the U.S. First Lady takes a deep interest in the progress of Bangladesh, especially the gigantic task of 'poverty alleviation' and 'woman emancipation'. To this effect she also asserted that the poverty alleviation programme could also be used to improve the poverty stricken people of her own country. Time and again both Mrs. Clinton and the U.S. President Clinton have both mentioned the poverty alleviation programme initiated by the Grameen [rural] Bank of Bangladesh as a probably role model. [sentence as published]

Since she has taken the pain and time to travel half way across the world to see the level of poverty with her own eyes we hope that this visit would be a milestone in her mission.

I hope experts would agree that poverty alleviation or woman emancipation cannot be achieved by Grameen Bank alone. Rather, it would require national awareness and national participation with strong support of the elected Government in power. Let us ask ourselves as to why the people of Bangladesh are affected by such abject poverty. I hope you will agree that you will find not just one but several different inter-related factors that have caused this. These factors could be classified as historical, political, demographical, accessibility to international market, as well as environmental. Without seriously addressing these issues there can be no comprehensive solution to this problem. The Grameen Bank project is a bold step in that direction but certainly a drop in the sea of such a huge problem.

Surely we cannot expect the U.S. First Lady to take up all these factors one by one and come up with viable solutions. But the influence of one individual on human lives can

never be undermined. The recent success story of Ex U.S. President Jimmy Carter in catalytically solving international crisis bears testimony to this fact. History is replete with such examples. Of all such factors, the one that is having far reaching effect is the environmental factor. Bangladesh has an agro-based economy. More than 80 percent of Bangladeshis depend on agriculture to earn their livelihood. River waters and fertile lands are the real natural resources of this country. To do anything that would affect farming would certainly not just break the backbone of our economy but also put the very survival of the people of this land at stake.

There may be no more people for poverty alleviation or woman for women emancipation programme. At this point it is not debatable that the environmental disaster of the lush green Bangladesh is entirely man-made and the result of blatant violation of international law by India, an upper riparian country.

Nothing could be more to blame than the Farakka Barrage and other similar dams/barrages built at the entry points of over 50 international rivers flowing from across India. This can very well be termed as an act of aggression against a peace loving people of this land. This is a state sponsored act to push a nation to a slow but inevitable destruction. Our commitment to international peace keeping is now recognized the world over. In Haiti, Somalia, Bosnia the sons of this soil are dutifully carrying out their peace keeping role. Peace is the centre of all our beliefs.

We believe that in order to have a lasting peace in a society and thereby a nation there must be a family that will be the home of peace. Woman is the centre of such a family. Clearly, without the emancipation of woman we cannot have the family or peace for that matter. As far as woman's emancipation is concerned, our record is not terribly bad as compared to other nations. Does it have to be pointed out that both the Prime Minister and the Opposition leader of Bangladesh are women who have their own families and children? The Holy Quran reserves a separate chapter on woman titled as 'Nissa' ('Women'). Herein the rights of women are clearly defined. These definitions are not to be changed. These rights form the foundation of any law that directly or indirectly affects the affairs of a woman. Islam protected the female child who was being buried in the sand solely because of who she was.

Today, the ruling Government is providing free scholarship to female students and the class attendance/participation is very encouraging. We support our Government whole heartedly in this mission. The love and care that a mother has for her children in our land is second to none. We will continue to support any programme, project, or mission that improves the lot of the women, the mothers of the nation.

We see eye to eye on the poverty alleviation and the woman emancipation programme with Mrs. Clinton. And thus as partners let us now look at the most pressing

problem of our time. We urge the First Lady to consider the negative effects of the man-made ecological disaster created by the unilateral withdrawal of water by India in the poverty alleviation programme of Bangladesh. We urge her to use her good influence in the world community in the capacity of the First Lady of the U.S. to raise the Farakka issue with the same missionary zeal as that of Jimmy Carter who successfully and singlehandedly dealt with international crisis that had enormous potential of causing human catastrophe on a large scale. Definitely, it would have been very effective if she could be taken to witness the dead Padma [river] and the desertification process of the North and South-West of Bangladesh. Being in Jessore, she may have seen some signs of the Farakka effect.

Finally, we conclude that undeniably the Farakka issue and for that matter a meaningful fair water sharing treaty with India should be included in any poverty alleviation programme in Bangladesh. We strongly believe that Mrs. Clinton could well work as an ambassador in raising this issue in all international forums like the one held in Copenhagen, Denmark and urge the world body to pressure India in giving Bangladesh her due share of the international water resources. A peace loving people must be promoted for a peaceful world. Not missiles but ensuring timely justice to the oppressed is the tested path to peace.

Kuwait Crown Prince Begins Official Visit

BK1204163795 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, was accorded a hearty and cordial reception when he arrived in Dhaka today on a four-day official visit to Bangladesh. A 19-gun salute was given when the plane carrying the special guest landed at Zia International Airport. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia received the crown prince at the tarmac. He was presented a bouquet by a small child. After the completion of the airport formalities, the royal guest, accompanied by the prime minister of Bangladesh, drove in a motorcade to the state guest house, Korotoa. The entire route from the airport to the state guest house was beautifully decorated with the national flags of the two countries and ribbons of different colors. A large number of people including school students standing on both sides of the road greeted the visiting dignitary while on his way to the guest house by waving miniature flags of the Bangladesh and Kuwait. A formal reception was accorded to the royal guest from Kuwait after he reached the guest house, Korotoa. He was given a guard of honor by a smart contingent of the three services. The crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait inspected the guard and took salute. At that time the national anthems of both the countries were played. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia took him to the line of guests and introduced him with the members of the cabinet and other eminent persons. After the completion

of these formalities, the crown prince of Kuwait was taken in a motorcade to Hotel Sonargaon. He will stay at this hotel during his four-day visit.

The crown prince, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, went to the National Martyrs Memorial at Savar this afternoon and paid his respects to the martyrs of the independence war. He laid floral wreaths at the memorial and prayed for the salvation of the soul of the martyrs. The crown prince met President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban [President House] this evening.

India

Delhi Rejects Linking Security Assurances With NPT

BK1204140295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has again rejected the idea of linking security assurances to the signing of the Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. India's permanent representative, Mr. Prakesh Shah, told the UN Security Council today that the draft resolution containing the idea presented by the permanent members is not only contrary to the UN Charter but has frightening implications. Terming the move as a half measure, he said it attempts to offer security assurances to a certain category of countries only. Mr. Shah said while India is committed to nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, it will not subscribe to the NPT as long as it is discriminatory.

Article Views U.S. Stand on NPT Issue

BK1204151895 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 5 Apr 95 p 8

[From the "Thinking Aloud" column by Minhaz Merchant: "It is time to expose American hypocrisy on NPT"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] While Hillary Clinton was charming the acquiescent leaders of South Asia with homilies on women, children and health, her husband, the American President, was busy crunching numbers at the Southern Regional Economic Conference at Emory University, sweeping campaign-style through Florida for a day, and then flying into Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Haiti for ten hours to give the 6,000 United States soldiers still stationed there a Presidential pat on the back.

The contrast in itineraries and agendas between the two Clintons, demonstrates how radically American foreign policy objectives have altered since the end of the Cold War. The United States is now the only superpower in the world. And yet, ironically, it has less real global influence than at any time since the end of World War II. More gallingly, even that influence is waning. Bill Clinton's recent trip, culminating in Haiti last Friday, is his first since the beginning of 1995. It underscores how

wedded American Presidents have become to a domestic agenda and to the "American backyard" syndrome.

Foreign policy strategists had argued four years ago that the demise of the Soviet Union and the emergence of a unipolar world would make the United States more dominant than ever. The reality has turned out to be more complex. The United States military presence in Western Europe and East Asia is decreasing with the evaporation of the Soviet threat. Japan and China have meanwhile carved out their own spheres of influence in the Pacific Rim, once a U.S. preserve. India is doing the same in South Asia. The deepening ties within the European Union have weakened America's long-term commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the bedrock of post-World War II European security.

During his recent lecture tour of India, Dr. Henry Kissinger, America's most ideological secretary of state since John Foster Dulles, made three basic points. First, there is unlikely to be in the next century any single globally dominant nation-state. Second, this is an entirely desirable state of affairs. And third, five power centres of roughly equal strength will shape world politics and business in the 21st century: China, the United States, the European Union, Japan, and India.

All this is unremarkable. It has been said before, including in this column three months ago. What Dr. Kissinger did not say is far more interesting.

American foreign policy has always been based on ruthless self-interest. And America's self-interest in the 21st century requires that it positions itself as first among future equals. Consider the four other major power groupings which the United States will have to contend with.

First, China. American strategists have for years been planning how to deal with post-Deng China. A collective leadership will probably govern the world's largest country (and, more importantly, the world's fastest growing economy) till a suitable single leader emerges. The United States knows that China is too powerful to bully; it also knows that it is unwise to antagonise Beijing beyond a point. The last thing Washington wants is a 21st century version of the Soviet Union: a large communist nuclear power that is virulently anti-American. That is why the United States has still not withdrawn Most Favoured Nation status from China despite Beijing's appalling human rights record and consistent trade and intellectual property rights violations.

Second, the European Union and Japan. America has defined its post-War relationship with both on economic and military grounds. That equation is changing inexorably in favour of trade. The United States has encouraged both Western Europe and Japan to take more responsibility for their own defense and lightened its military commitments in the Atlantic and Pacific regions. Dr. Kissinger, speaking at the "Britain in the World" conference in London a few days ago (just after

his Indian tour), underscored this when he remarked that Europe and America needed to redefine their relationship in terms of trade rather than defense.

Finally, India. This is the relationship between future power centres that the United States regards with the least certitude. At least Europe, Japan, and China afford specific solutions. India is a dark horse, a new potential entrant to the world's political and economic elite.

In a recent interview, President Clinton was uncharacteristically reflective about America's future world role: "I think the period in modern American history most comparable to this is probably the one right after World War II. At the end of any era people are called upon to look to the future and yet there is a tendency to look inward, to relax, to just be thankful that the old order is gone away without thinking about what the new world order might look like."

But think we must. We have already seen what shape this new world order could take: five major power centres, three (including India) in Asia, two on either side of the Atlantic. As the new kid on the block, India must learn to think and act like a regional power. When dealing with the West on global issues, Indian policymakers tend to be either too supplicatory or too hostile. Neither attitude does them much credit. There is still a great deal of amateurism in the conduct of our foreign policy. Even a minor Western political celebrity is guaranteed a fawning, awestruck audience. There is the other extreme *swadeshi* [indigenous] view too: everything foreign is rotten. Finding the middle path between these two destructive attitudes is crucial to balancing Indian self-interest with the larger global good, a consideration that has never particularly weighed down Western foreign policy but must underpin India's.

American interests in the Indian subcontinent are moored to three contentious issues: Pakistan, the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], and free trade. Pakistan is central to Washington's policy of containing India's rapid growth as a regional power centre. Hence, every U.S. leader of note makes it a point, sometimes a laboured one, to visit Islamabad just before or after New Delhi. The constant equating of India with Pakistan is part of a subtle 40-year-old American policy that is both spurious and wrongheaded. Indian policymakers have fallen into the trap by debating issues in India versus Pakistan terms. That is a strategic blunder. Pakistan is not remotely India's equal economically, militarily, or diplomatically and New Delhi's uncoordinated, defensive reactions to Islamabad have played right into Washington's hands.

It is this same defensiveness which emboldens successive Pakistani envoys to behave provocatively with Indian leaders. The present High Commissioner in New Delhi, Riaz Khokhar, has been particularly controversial. His behaviour with the minister of state for external affairs, R.L. Bhatia, at the Pakistan Day reception on 23 March was inexcusable. Had Riaz Khokhar shown the same

discourtesy to even a junior Cabinet minister in Washington, London, or Bonn he would have been on the first flight back home.

Khokhar's behaviour is symptomatic of Pakistan's irresponsible conduct over a swathe of issues. In many of these the United States acts as friend and abettor. The most significant is the NPT whose 25-year term expires later this month. The NPT, in its present form, has been so thoroughly discredited that it is no longer necessary to highlight its many defects. The United States and its allies are seeking an indefinite extension of the NPT, employing the wholly counterfeit argument that such an extension will benefit mankind. This is what President Clinton had to say on the subject last fortnight: "The United States firmly believes that achieving an indefinite extension of the nuclear NPT is vital to global security."

That is arrant nonsense even by Clinton's unexact standards. An indefinite extension of the NPT is not vital to global security—it will, in fact, endanger it by encouraging underground nuclear mini-powers like Iraq and Iran to develop a clandestine bomb. An indefinite extension of the NPT is vital only to maintaining the West's nuclear leverage over the rest of the non-nuclear world.

Sri Lanka's ambassador in Washington, Jayantha Dhanapala, has officially been appointed president of the NPT Renewal and Extension Conference 1995 which convenes in New York on April 17. The West has been lobbying frantically over the past six months to get the necessary votes (88 out of 175) to renew the NPT indefinitely. It will not get them. The best Washington and its nuclear partners will get is a five (perhaps 10) years extension with several caveats. The principal among them will be a guarantee that the five nuclear powers (the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China) will pledge to destroy their own nuclear weapons within a fixed time frame and in a verifiable manner. Without that pledge—legally binding, verifiable, and enforceable—the NPT is not worth the paper it is printed on.

India has had nuclear capability for 21 years, Pakistan for nearly 15. Washington has cleverly used Pakistan's clandestine nuclear program to stifle India's without applying the same rules to itself. America's attempt to de-nuclearise South Asia without at the same time de-nuclearising the much larger armouries of the five nuclear powers (including its own) is founded on the same principle of hypocrisy as Thomas Jefferson's and George Washington's espousal of "freedom for all men" even while tacitly promoting the slave trade and the genocide of the indigenous Red Indians. It is a principle that must be exposed, discredited, and defeated. New York, April 17, is a good place to start.

Editorial Urges 'Severe Campaign' Against Pakistan

BK1204105795 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi
11 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Campaign Against Pakistan Essential"]

[FBIS Translated Text] India must launch a severe campaign against Pakistan, which is speedily expanding its nuclear capability. This campaign ought to be strong enough to develop sufficient international pressure to derail Pakistan's nefarious intentions. The present policies of the Indian Government are proving futile when it comes to full disclosure of Pakistan's vile designs. Whether these policies are ineffective due to the inherent weakness in their formulation or because of Pakistan's influence on other countries could be a academic, but the fact remains that the Pakistani position at international forums is anything but weak. It is not only comfortably confronting India at these forums but is successfully creating an anti-India atmosphere. This is indeed a matter of serious concern. Ironically, the charge of developing the nuclear capability is always leveled against India, while the fact is that it is Pakistan which is making nuclear weapons. This was also confirmed by Nawaz Sharif's recent declaration that his country already had the Bomb. During her current visit to the United States, Benazir Bhutto is maintaining a similar hostile attitude. The way she is spitting venom against India and getting indirect support from the U.S. Administration ought to cause deep worry for India.

What is amazing is the U.S. Administration's mysterious silence, even while the prime minister of Pakistan is openly declaring that her country is busy uninstalling a new nuclear reactor. Let alone admonishing her for such an impudent action, the U.S. Administration is not even trying to discourage her. As a matter of fact, having known about this installation from Bhutto herself, the U.S. Administration should have given Pakistan a strong warning to desist from such activities immediately. It chose not to do so. This makes American policies toward Pakistan most mysterious and secretive. It appears the U.S. Administration does not want to incur the displeasure of Pakistan, but at the same time it wants to keep India happy. This is just a facade, for the reality is that the United States wants to help Pakistan. Pakistan has been a real friend to the United States and this is a fact, while the United States has no such feelings for India. It is also very surprising that the United States does not want a country like India, totally committed to democracy, to be its friend, while calling Pakistan a true friend who openly trains terrorists and makes nuclear weapons while blatantly rejecting the foreign policy goals of this superpower. This mysterious U.S. position cannot be described in any other way than calling it out and out anti-Indian.

One thing is crystal clear in this context. The problems between India and Pakistan escape solution only because Pakistan receives tacit or direct international support on

one pretext or the other. Everyone tries to meddle in solving these problems, but no one seems to have the guts to tell Pakistan to stop its India-baiting. Other countries aside, if the United States could pressure Pakistan effectively to stop helping and training terrorists, the problems between India and Pakistan can be solved quickly. Will the United States agree to do so? Hence, the bitter fact that during this visit by Bhutto, the United States Government has failed to exert any pressure on her to make her sit down with her Indian counterpart and genuinely attempt to solve the problems. On the contrary, the indications are that the U.S. Administration is encouraging her to maintain her anti-India stance, which is highly improper. The problems between India and Pakistan can be solved by having direct negotiations and trying earnestly to achieve solution without any foreign interference. The various offers by India for direct negotiations show its desire to solve the problems, but Pakistan continues to maintain its stubborn position. Apparently its intention seems to be to take over all of Kashmir by hook or crook, and if that is not possible, then at least hold onto its part of Kashmir. India cannot accept this situation, come what may, and should not, but this attitude is not enough. India must be not only firm but aggressive in its protests which, sadly, it is not the case. This weakness is being exploited by Pakistan. Unless India adopts aggressive policies toward Pakistan to make it aware of reality, neither are bilateral relations likely to improve nor is that part of Kashmir which Pakistan is already occupying likely to be liberated. It is true that the US Administration has repeatedly told India about its intention of having the supply of weapons to the terrorists in Kashmir stopped, but the mere expression of a desire is not enough. The supply of weapons to the Kashmiri terrorists continues unchecked. Does this American desire constitute anything but lip service? Under the circumstances, India must find an independent way of tackling the problem, which can only be through an aggressive policy toward Pakistan. This whole situation is a great challenge to India, which it must face with resolve and courage.

Commentary Expects 'Minimal' U.S. Gestures to Pakistan

BK1204094295 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 12 Apr 95 p 1

[Commentary by P.R. Chari: "Pak to square one"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The little straws in the wind are becoming flying tree trunks, and recent developments clearly indicate that the Clinton administration is desperately looking for a way around the Pressler amendment to resume economic and military assistance to Pakistan that prominently includes 28 F-16s for which Pakistan has paid \$650m. The Pressler amendment prohibits their delivery: But Pakistan cannot get its money back either. The manufacturers have invoked the force majeure clause to disclaim any responsibility for

either delivery of the F-26s or to pay liquidated damages for non-delivery by arguing that the dispute lies between the governments, in which the manufacturers have no *locus standi*. The F-16s can be sold to other buyers, and Oman has reportedly evinced some slight interest. But it would only pay \$200m for the lot.

Apart from the more substantive realpolitik reasons subsisting, the United States is aware of this paradox engendered by the Pressler amendment, and wants it neither waived or amended. The Pressler legislation bans all military and economic assistance to Pakistan unless the US President certifies to Congress that Pakistan "does not possess a nuclear explosive device and that the proposed US assistance programme will significantly reduce the risk that Pakistan will possess a nuclear explosive device."

Within Pakistan this legislation is perceived as triply discriminatory. One, it reveals American "ingratitude". Pakistan's yeoman services in training, financing and sustaining the Afghan Mujahideen insurgency, which ensured the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, has been forgotten. Two, no such prohibitions apply against India, which has exploded a nuclear device and possesses huge stocks of fissile materials suitable for nuclear weaponry. Three, the Pressler amendment has deprived Pakistan of its paid-for F-16s, and its money, which offends any sense of commercial propriety.

Historically, no doubt, the Pressler amendment was designed to help Pakistan circumvent the earlier Glenn-Symington amendments that prohibited American assistance being provided to countries importing uranium enrichment or plutonium reprocessing facilities. The later Solarz amendment disallowed American aid to countries illegally exporting sensitive technologies from the US, utilisable for manufacturing nuclear weapons. The Pressler amendment overrode the Glenn-Symington and Solarz amendments to permit US Presidential certification to enable continuance of assistance to Pakistan, despite its having been caught smuggling nuclear equipment and materials from the US. The last presidential certification was provided in 1989, on the assurance by Pakistan that it would "cap" its nuclear programme. Its failure to honour this pledge did not allow further certification. It is not clear how exactly Pakistan infringed its promises. But it could be surmised that this could imply its enriching uranium beyond the 3 or 5 per cent level stipulated or its continuing to import sensitive materials/technology or its fashioning enriched uranium into nuclear cores. In these circumstances, the US compusions to find a way around the Pressler amendment are paradoxical, but comprise a medley of commercial and political rationale. In brief:

- American corporations wishing to invest in Pakistan want to avail of official assistance and guarantees to secure payments;
- US arms manufacturing companies anticipate huge orders for military hardware from Pakistan;
- Pakistan's military officers are currently denied admission to US schools of military instruction except on payment of very high non-confessional fees. Their absence creates a void in American access to Pakistan's military establishment.
- The Pressler amendment weakens Pakistan's conventional military capabilities and thereby strengthens its reliance on the nuclear option;
- Since Pakistan is being denied US economic and military assistance, India is advantaged and has no incentive to "cap" its nuclear capabilities.

These rationalisation need not bind one to the realities of American domestic politics and the opposition which the executive would face in Congress to any further attempts being made to dilute the non-proliferation ideal to serve vague, general foreign policy objectives. Especially with the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] extension conference coming up. Some minimal gestures are possible during the Bhutto visit. Like promises on a future resumption of the economic and military training programme. No dice, however, on the F-16s.

Editorial Sees Need for More Defense Spending
BK0704091795 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
7 Apr 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Money for defence"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security is something which a nation cannot take for granted. It has to be perpetually on the alert against any threat. For instance, the security environment in Asia may appear to be all right, as underlined by the Defence Ministry's annual report for 1994-95, inducing some measure of complacency in India's defence establishment. But given the fact that considerable arms build-up has been going on in the region the need to maintain defence preparedness to meet any eventuality cannot be overemphasised. While Pakistan, which is engaged in a proxy war with India on Kashmir, continues to pose the greatest security threat to the nation, developments in the rest of the continent are not confidence-inspiring either. Though efforts to normalise relations with China have begun yielding results, India cannot overlook the fact that the Communist giant has not slackened modernisation of its armed forces and enhancement of its blue-water capabilities. Of greater concern is its sale of missiles and allied defence technology to Pakistan. The southeast Asian region has in recent years witnessed considerable economic growth. This, in turn, has given an impetus for defence preparedness. A flare-up in the region, known for its volatile nature, cannot be ruled out. The Central Asian Republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union have so far relied on Russia for their security needs. Engaged as they are in restructuring their economy, they have not yet given much attention to building up an arsenal of their own. Pakistan has been trying to meddle in their affairs just as it is busy in fomenting trouble in Afghanistan, where it

has raised the students' militia called Taleban to destabilise the present regime, though without much success. The belligerence of Pakistan, whose nuclear weapon status is fairly certain, and its readiness to use terrorism as a weapon remains a source of worry for the whole region. All this necessitates India to shore up its defence capabilities. Instead, there has been a let-up in the spending on defence as is borne out by the recent Union Budget. It is true that the allocation for defence has shown an increase of 10 per cent over the previous year's but it does not take into account the fact that inflation at the rate of 11 percent has in absolute terms reduced the money available for defence. This has to be juxtaposed with the fact that in per capita terms India's defence spending amounts to eight dollars per year against Pakistan's 31 and China's 21.

Columnist Criticizes Annual Defense Report

BK1104162295 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 7 Apr 95 p 7

["Global Watch" column by K. Subrahmanyam: "Defence policy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian defence ministry has issued its annual report before the annual budget debate. Under the procedure introduced two years ago, the document will be considered in detail by the standing committee of Parliament for defence and its report will be made available to the two Houses of Parliament before the demands for grants are formally approved.

The report is not a policy document. It only gives a brief overview of the national security environment and outlines the activities of the ministry of defence, the three services, departments of defence production and research and development in the past year. It tells nothing about what the future security policy of India is going to be.

The annual report on defence has a chapter on national security environment which does not connect up with the rest of the document. Nor does that chapter, while spelling out the security environment in a low key phraseology brings out its implications to our national security. For instance, it does not highlight that unconditional and indefinite extension of the non-proliferation treaty would legitimise the most horrendous weapon of mass destruction in perpetuity and consequently, India, though it advocates the elimination of nuclear weapons, will be compelled to keep its nuclear option open along with a no first use policy on the lines of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 in respect of chemical weapons.

Asia has four nuclear weapon powers—Russia, China, Pakistan and Israel, besides the surviving superpower, the US. The nations that are accused by the West as having nuclear ambitions, Iran, Iraq and North Korea are also in Asia. If there are seepages of nuclear fissile materials out of former Soviet republics towards the West, there could perhaps be larger seepage towards the

South, since traffic routes for large volume narcotics traffic have been established from former Soviet republics to the 'golden crescent' on Pakistan.

Similarly, missiles are widely distributed all over Asia as Russia, China and North Korea produce missiles and sell them to other countries. Missiles are located in ex-Soviet republics and long range IRBM [intermediate range ballistic missiles] missiles covering India are installed in Saudi Arabia. Iran, Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt and Yemen have missiles. Pakistan, according to the Americans, received missiles and missile technology from China and the US has found it necessary to impose sanctions under the missile technology control regime (MTCR) twice on Pakistan and the second sanction is still in force.

Under these circumstances, though India favours a zero ballistic missile regime, it cannot give up its development and production of missiles. This strong case for the Indian missile programme has not been put across.

If India is able to project its legitimate case on its nuclear and missile policies, there will not be as much pressure from the external world as we experience at present. So long as the government talks of keeping the nuclear option open and our missile programme being a technology demonstrator, it is logical for other countries to apply pressure on India to persuade it to close those options.

There is a widespread impression in the rest of the world that India does not have a tradition of strategic thinking and there is no mechanism for decision making in the realm of national security and the Indian leadership just drifts along resorting to fire fighting tactics. Such impressions are confirmed by the kind of annual reports presented by the ministries of defence and external affairs, which do not have an iota of future oriented thinking.

These are issues which the standing committee on defence has to take up.

Iran

Velayati Calls Nuclear Technology Aims 'Peaceful'

LD1304095495 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rome, April 13, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has reiterated that purchase of Russian nuclear technology by the Islamic Republic of Iran is solely for peaceful purposes and in compliance with international regulations.

In an interview with the Italian state radio, 'Radio Italiana (RAI)', broadcast Wednesday [12 April], Velayati added that the U.S. propaganda launched against Iran stems from Washington's rivalry with Russia.

He noted that efforts are under way to turn the world public opinion from Israel's nuclear activities.

Contrary to Iran, the foreign minister said, the Zionist regime has so far refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

On Iran's relations with neighboring states, he stressed that the country's foreign policy is based on strengthening regional cooperation. He underscored Iran's efforts to promote cooperation with Central Asian countries.

As for Iran's stand vis-a-vis the U.S. oil embargo, Velayati stated that the Americans would buy Iran's oil for their own interests rather than interests of the Iranians. However, he added, Iran has no problem in selling its oil at international market.

Official: Bushehr Plant Not Capable of Plutonium

LD1304105495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The Bushehr nuclear power station, which is near completion with Russia's cooperation, is solely capable of producing electricity, said Mr. Amrollahi, vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, in an interview with our news correspondent. He described as baseless the United State's propaganda hue and cry about the Bushehr power station. He stressed: The power station will never be capable of producing plutonium for the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

[Begin Amrollahi recording] The purpose of the power station is to produce electricity. It is not finished; it is 85 percent complete. Since the country that was to build it [Japan] did not complete it—and we have been waiting for 10 or 15 years—we have been building it with the Russians and are near completion. It can only produce electricity. Those who build nuclear power stations do so solely for generating electricity. There are about 420 nuclear power stations in the world today.

The United States said recently that Iran has so much oil and gas, why does it need to build nuclear powers stations? I ask the United States, did they remember this just now? Why did they not ask this question 25 years ago during the shah's time when the foundations of the power station were laid? At that time our oil, gas, and energy, as it were, resources were the same as they are now. So we see that they have double standards about this issue. [end recording]

[Announcer] Replying to a question from our correspondent about Iran's view of a Middle East without nuclear weapons and the Zionist regime refraining from signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], Mr. Amrollahi said:

[Begin Amrollahi recording] As long as Israel has supporters such as the United States and one or two other

weaker countries, it will procrastinate the signing of the NPT. If it signs, it will have to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect its country and will be forced to gather and destroy its nuclear warheads.

Furthermore, Israel has not only not signed the NPT, but it also does not want a nuclear weapons-free region. For about 20 years, we have been striving for the Middle East to become a region without nuclear weapons. The only country opposing it is Israel. [end recording]

[Announcer] The vice president said the project to complete the Bushehr power station with Russia's cooperation was a commercial transaction for this country. He said: Nuclear experts in Russia regard the completion of the Bushehr power station as a safeguard for Russia's independence and integrity.

Referring to the good relations between Iran and Russia, Mr. Amrollahi stressed: Russia is faithful to the completion of the Bushehr power plant.

Daily Applauds Moscow Nuclear Deal; U.S. 'Rebuffed'

NC1304140495 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Russia Sees Through U.S. Duplicity"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In yet another example of how countries around the world resent U.S. pressure to change their foreign policy, Russian officials shut the door in the Clinton administration's face. Much to the chagrin of Washington, Moscow will see to it that its cooperation with Iran will bear fruit in the field of nuclear cooperation.

American officials are under the impression that, by pressuring other countries, they are going to get the desired effect. The fact is that countries such as Germany, France and Russia, resent being told what to do. Even though they have friendly relations with the U.S., they hate being told that the course of action they have taken with Iran is wrong. Hence, the U.S. call has invariably fallen on deaf ears.

A decade and a half past the Islamic Revolution, which put an end to American influence, the U.S. administration seems unable to forgive Iran for the impertinence to throw off the shackles of American imperialism. Moreover, since U.S. officials are unable to ram the Mideast "peace deal" down the Arab throats, they point to Iran as the cause of their failure to broker peace.

Since other countries do not have the bitter memory of Iran which the American officials have, they do not share the same perception of Iran as the Clinton administration. These nations also see through American duplicity: The U.S. is not as much concerned with Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons as it is with losing its monopoly on the sale and transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries.

So when the U.S. is rebuffed by Moscow, one can easily detect a certain sense of cynicism in Moscow that the U.S. wants to prevent Russia from gaining a foothold in the Middle East.

The next time the U.S. officials go around the world in their futile exercise of hypocrisy, they must remember that other nations, too, have interests and that their national interests cannot play second fiddle to the U.S. national interest or the immoral goal of starting a smear campaign against Iran in order to appease the Zionist regime, or to cover up a peace process that once appeared as a prince in shining armor, but has ended up in tatters.

Minister Denies Oil Platforms Shipped to Serbia

LD1204191895 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Oil Ministry public relations department quoted Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh as rejecting a claim made by an American daily on shipment of two oil platforms from Iran to Serbia.

The daily 'NEW YORK TIMES' had recently claimed that four countries and several foreign companies were secretly trying to transfer instruments for digging oil wells from Iran to Serbia.

The daily continued that western officials and governments were reluctant to divulge the issue and western intelligence organizations were not for Iranians and Serbs becoming informed of the way of their acquiring information. [sentence as received]

Moreover, it said that western officials consider shipment of the platforms as "blatant" violation of economic sanctions imposed on Serbs. Westerners, especially Americans, have for times and again defied sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro.

NIOC on Azerbaijan Consortium, Conoco Cancellation

LD1204193395 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT
12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April, 12, IRNA—Iran has not received any formal letter or comment related to negation of its membership in Azerbaijan oil consortium from Azeri authorities, director general of Iran National Oil Company (NIOC) exploration and foreign partnerships affairs, Mehdi Hoseyni said.

Hoseyni in a press conference on Wednesday said "we have received only two letters...one in line with Azerbaijan's request of the consortium's members for accepting Iran's formal membership and the other was the reply of head of consortium, Terry Adams opposing Iran's participation in the project."

Referring to previous talks of Oil Ministry authorities and signing ventures with them for giving five percent of consortium's shares to Iran, Hoseyni said "since there was possibility of United States' opposition with the participation of Iranian oil company in the project, in the meeting with consortium's members in London, we brought up the issue".

"Azeri authorities have signed creditable documents in this area with Iran and violation of the venture and cancelling Iran's membership will create legal problems for Azerbaijan. So Iran prefers to solve the issue through bilateral talks", Hoseyni said.

Saying that there is no prohibition for American companies to deal with Iran in U.S law, Hoseyni said American government's stance toward this issue is not economic, but completely political.

At the present the consortium for transferring the oil produced in the first phase from Azerbaijan's resources at the rate of 100,000 barrel per day is faced with difficulty and is depending on Iran, he added. Hoseyni said that members of consortium had called for talks with Iranian oil company in this regard, the acceptance of which depends on Iran's membership in the consortium. "The reason for not selecting Iran for transferring crude oil is another scenario which is pursued by Americans. They are interested in transferring oil via Turkey to Mediterranean Sea," Hoseyni added.

Regarding Iran's venture with Conoco company for the expansion of oil fields in Sirri area in southern Iran, he said "During the past three and half years, we received several suggestions in line with oil extraction from Sirri's two oil fields 'i and a' whose oil have been asserted [as received] 600 and 100 millions barrels."

"Consequently, Iran chose two offers and started talks with 'Conoco-Iran N.V.' company which registered in Holland and is a subsidiary of American Conoco company", Hoseyni said.

He mentioned securing Iranian oil company's points of view, refusing to give any concession and respecting Iran's values and rules, participation of Iranian personnel in the project, purchase of gas and the low offer by Conoco as the significant points of the venture and one of the reason for choosing this company for partnership in the plan. "From the beginning, Conoco authorities were notified of possible political problems. They repeatedly underlined that they are reporting to U.S State Department and they have not been prevented from dealing with Iran," the Oil Ministry official added. "Cancellation of Conoco's venture with Iran is the direct intervention of highest American authority in private sector and is in violation of the policy of free trade and in the long term American companies will suffer heavy losses," he said.

Legal Framework for Caspian 'Exploitation' Urged

LD1204162695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0953 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Albert Chernyshev, Russian deputy foreign minister, announced yesterday that the stance and viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the Caspian Sea are endorsed by Moscow. Elaborating this point, he said that Iran and Russia believe that Caspian Sea countries should benefit from the sea's resources without outside interference and this should take place without any discrimination.

It should be noted that Dr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, had also stressed on Monday night that, as long as the legal situation of the Caspian Sea has not been clarified, current agreements with foreign parties will not have much standing.

The joint emphasis placed by Iran and Russia on the fact that the Caspian Sea is the shared heritage of its coastal countries and that there is a need for the establishment of a clear legal framework for the exploitation of the sea's marine and underground resources is not something new. However, Iran's participation in such projects as the plan for the extraction of the Republic of Azerbaijan's oil resources by a consortium of oil companies was an attempt to adopt a cooperative approach and to establish a constructive and peaceful climate, which, unfortunately, was unilaterally abrogated by the Republic of Azerbaijan because it succumbed to pressure from the United States and other powers.

This development has aroused not only the protest of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but also the anxiety of Russia and other Caspian Sea countries about discrimination in favor of foreigners in relation to the exploitation of resources.

The Caspian Sea, as an inland waterway, belongs to the countries which have a right to, and a share in, the peaceful exploitation of its God-given resources, whether in the sea or under the sea. Until such a time as the clear legal rights of all the Caspian Sea coastal countries in connection with the exploitation of its resources have been stipulated and codified, the anxiety will persist in the nations and governments of the region—especially the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation—that some countries will extract these resources unilaterally and surrender them to foreign powers.

The repeated statements made by Russian officials about the Caspian Sea being a shared heritage, which fully coincide with the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reveal that the time is now ripe for serious and all-sided discussions between the political and legal officials of Caspian Sea coastal countries towards establishing the size of each country's share in the sea's God-given resources on the basis of a just legal regime.

In this connection, the other Caspian Sea coastal countries, that is, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, have also expressed a similar interest in the benefits arising from the establishment of a just and effective legal regime in the Caspian Sea.

'Concern' Expressed Over Escalation in Tajikistan

LD1204164295 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Iran on Wednesday expressed concern over the escalation of the conflict in Tajikistan, calling on the belligerent parties to show self-restraint and turn to peaceful solutions. Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mahmud Mohammadi, said the process of negotiations would not continue in case the clashes are intensified. The conflicting parties in Tajikistan can, through dialogue, prevent any violation of the ceasefire agreed in Tehran and regard the contract as a basis for restoring lasting peace to their country, he added.

For the first time after a two-year civil war between the government and the opposition, the two sides signed an agreement of ceasefire in a conference held in Tehran last September.

The Central Asian republic of Tajikistan has been the scene of fierce clashes after a communist government came into power in Dushanbe in 1992.

The spokesman said Iran, in line with its principled policy, is ready to help put an end to the bloodshed in Tajikistan so that the Tajik nation could live in peace. In the last two months, he said, the Islamic Republic of Iran had repeatedly voiced concern about the clashes in Tajikistan through diplomatic channels.

Gaza Disarmament Result of U.S.-Israeli 'Pressure'

NC1304103095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 13 Apr 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] In continuation of the arrest and repression of Palestine's moderate [miyaneh] groups, 'Arafat has set a one-month deadline for these groups to hand in their arms to the forces of the self-rule area. 'Arafat's one-month deadline for the disarmament of the moderate Palestinian groups is actually an effort to decrease the pressure from the U.S. and Israel on self-rule area officials. The U.S. and Israel want 'Arafat to destroy the Muslim Palestinian people's struggles and to make it possible for the compromise process to move ahead.

In an initial reaction, the Islamic groups have declared their opposition to 'Arafat's demand and have stressed that they will hold on to their arms and continue their

anti-Israeli struggles. Hamas leader Mahmud al-Zahhar has said on this subject: We will not surrender our arms since we need them to defend ourselves. He also ruled out the use of force to disarm the moderate groups and said that the collection of the Palestinian combatants' arms by force will not be an easy task.

The recent unrest in the Gaza area has strongly disturbed 'Arafat, Israel, and the United States, who are the founders of the compromise plan on the basis of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and has increased doubts about the possibility of this plan moving ahead. Four Hamas members were killed last week in an explosion that combatant Palestinian groups described as a joint 'Arafat-Israeli plot. Following this explosion, the Islamic Resistance Movement stated that it will retaliate, and in less than one week it carried out two operations in which seven Zionists were killed and about 40 were wounded. These operations displayed the strength of the moderate forces in confronting the Zionists and 'Arafat's forces, since they carried out the attack after they had forewarned Israel and 'Arafat of retaliatory attacks and when the forces of 'Arafat and of the Zionists had prepared themselves to confront such attempts.

Following the operations by the moderate Palestinian groups, 'Arafat mobilized his forces to arrest the Palestinian combatants and develop the plan for their disarmament within a one month period. Since Sunday—when the moderate groups carried out their operations—'Arafat's forces have arrested about 200 people suspected of cooperating with the combatant Palestinian groups. These arrests have not only not made the unrest die down in Gaza, but have also sparked public protests and have intensified the extent of opposition.

Experts believe that at a time when 'Arafat is even unable to limit the operations by the moderate forces, speaking about disarming the Palestinian groups can be nothing but a futile effort to decrease American and Israeli pressure. By examining the current situation in Gaza, observers consider efforts to limit the struggles by the Palestinian groups to be impossible and believe that in view of the existing conditions, 'Arafat's steps not only cannot meet American and Israeli demands to crush the combatants, but are intensifying the struggles in the occupied territories.

'Antirevolutionaries' Blamed for Tehran Unrest
NC1304090595 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
8 Apr 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Anti-revolutionaries Are at Work"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] What happened in Eslamshahr, a township south of Tehran, once more proves that anti-revolutionaries are still at work. They need an iron fist to prevent them from succeeding in their nasty mission to destroy what has been achieved through unprecedented sacrifice—the Islamic Republic.

The enemy exploited the long Nowruz [Iranian new year] holidays with an extensive disinformation campaign across Iran. Psychologically, we know that bad news travels fast, along with rumors.

Thank God, the disciplinary forces acted promptly and violent protests against a water shortage were stopped in the shortest possible time.

In a press release, Eslamshahr's 'Alim Mohammad Nowruz threw light on what happened in this southwest Tehran shanty town on Tuesday. He said that the attack on special places by the protesters shows that the unfortunate incident was pre-planned and their aim was to create disorder in a poverty-stricken area.

No one denies that the people are facing problems. Government authorities and, above all, the Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, are fully aware of the people's grievances. In his speeches, the Leader has asked officials to address the people's problems.

An eight-year war, a U.S.-led propaganda and economic sabotage, and financial corruption among certain officials are the primary causes of the Iranian people's grievances.

But those who keep a close eye on the construction plans, being translated under the guidance of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, know that current problems will be eradicated in the near future.

The foreign media highlighted the Eslamshahr incident with baseless figures and alleged facts showing that anti-revolutionary forces fueled the propaganda machinery against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian print and broadcast media shoulder a vital responsibility for providing accurate facts to the people in order to counter the biased foreign media.

The Hashemi-Rafsanjani administration is responsible for bringing any corrupt official to court for justice and deterrence of similar activity.

We should do everything possible to maintain our revolutionary values, for unprecedented sacrifices were made by the Iranian people in order to achieve the objectives of the Revolution conceived by the late Imam Khomeini.

Each and every Iranian must be alert, not allowing the enemy the slightest opportunity to mar the image and values of the Islamic Revolution.

Spread of False Rumors During Nowruz Criticized
NC1004142195 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Mar 95
p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Rumor Mongering"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even though the fabrication and dissemination of rumors has a long history and rumor mongers embark on this with a variety of motives, today

rumor mongering is one of the current ploys in the psychological operations resorted to by enemies who want to sow doubts and distort public opinion, thus preparing the ground for reaping political, economic capital etc....

As the Islamic Revolution relies on the faith of the people more than on anything else for its inception and continuation, and since the soundness of public opinion—which stems from the safety and preservation of the revolution and the system—plays a prominent role and has a distinctive position, its external enemies and their domestic appendages have constantly endeavored to use rumor mongering as an effective lever to cause fear and unrest among the people.

Even the most cursory glance at our 16-year history will clearly reveal this ploy that is being resorted to by our enemies. However, this is merely one side of the coin; the other side should be attributed to the inattention of some of our offices in charge of keeping the people aware and informed. Unfortunately, in the past few weeks our Islamic society witnessed one of the most prolific spells of rumor mongering. Regarding this, we can mention certain points:

A. According to the academics, the intensity and proliferation of such rumors is linked to the two factors of "the importance of the issue" and "the level of ambiguity" in such a manner that the rate of the spread and intensity of the rumors is the product of these two factors. This means that if the issue is not very important in itself and if public opinion is well informed on the subject and no ambiguity exists, no rumors can be spawned.

According to Al Port in his book "The Psychology of Rumors," if a rumor is spread about a rise in the price of a local foodstuff in Afghanistan, it will not generate any intensity or perturbation in American society, as the topic of the rumor is of no consequence to the American public.

The people in our Islamic country have repeatedly proved that they are sensitive to issues pertaining to our system and revolution, and any news related to these things is of special importance to them. Therefore, if the rumor mongers choose a topic related to the system, there is a high "importance" factor, which is one of the catalysts for the proliferation of rumors. Since the public does not have adequate information, the second factor—that is, "ambiguity"—is added to it. Thus, both the factors for breeding rumors are present.

B. One must concede that the rumors nowadays are mostly on topics which the relevant officials have elaborated on for the people in detail through the mass media. Therefore, the question arises: Why was it that despite the issue being clear and devoid of any ambiguities, rumors were concocted and disseminated? The answer to this question can be found in one of the two following possibilities or a combination of both:

1. Unfortunately, despite the repeated requests of those concerned about the needs of public opinion, information regarding certain recent events in the economic sphere, such as the misappropriation case in Saderat Bank and so on, was rather sparse. By keeping the people in the dark despite the importance of the issue, a breeding ground for rumors was provided for other issues, despite the fact that necessary and sufficient information had been provided to the public about them.

2. In the Nowruz period—despite the long spell of holidays and travel, of traditional family gatherings which have always played a prominent role in the spread of talk—our public mass media and the news agencies were also on holiday. In those days, of all the various widely circulated newspapers the only one that was published despite a plethora of difficulties and problems in order to fulfill its mission was KEYHAN. All the other newspapers were on vacation. This can also be attributed to the astronomical costs of paper, printing materials etc. The relevant authorities had been informed of this earlier, and it would have been most appropriate if our esteemed officials had come up with some solution to this problem so that all the widely-circulated newspapers would have been able to continue publication as usual.

Even though KEYHAN was disseminated despite all these problems, we are optimistic that by the grace of God Almighty we will not encounter a similar paper shortage in the coming days just because of the publication of our newspaper during the Nowruz period.

On the other hand, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which could have played a most effective role in conveying information and news, was more preoccupied with presenting entertaining Nowruz programs, which in itself deserves praise and appreciation. However, it should have incorporated reports on some of society's needs and issues in its programs.

C. One point that cannot be ignored is that the rumors that circulated in those days were most crude, commonplace, and amateurish. Those who encountered them reacted with more anger and irritation rather than with credibility. This in itself is worth mulling over as it indicates the high level of national acumen.

D. Some of the people who contacted KEYHAN wanted to know why a particular false rumor or report was being disseminated and why we did not deny it. We listened to these dear people and told them that if every baseless rumor were to be refuted in the press, there would be no place or time for the actual mission of the media. The solution in principle is to keep the people informed and to expose the objectives of the rumor mongers. This is how we can combat their cursed ploys.

Editorial Emphasizes Government-People Trust

NC1204101095 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Apr 95 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Reciprocal Trust Between the People and the Officials"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

"Despite the profusion of propaganda by the powers of world arrogance and Zionism, the Iranian nation continues to be present on the scene directly, honorably, joyfully, and steadfastly. This is due to the fact that the hearts and lives of the Iranian people are completely immersed in thoughts of God."

This was stated by the great leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i in his Nowruz message to the various segments of the Iranian nation. He also declared that 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] was a year replete with numerous successes in the political and international relations fields. He declared 1374 as a year of economic and financial discipline. He emphatically asked the various social strata and officials to take this seriously and that "all the individuals throughout society, especially those who use public funds, only do so to the extent of their need."

This emphatic request by the leader indicates that he has diagnosed the cause of the sickness in the body of society like an ingenious physician and is suggesting a solution to the problem. However what is important is that the exhortations of the leader should be acted on seriously and to the letter and should become the guidelines for everyone everywhere.

The importance and sensitivity of the issue in general requires that our society view every issue with greater astuteness. Naturally, the officials should adopt a humanistic policy by using funds from the public treasury only in cases of dire need. Thus the people will realize that, for all practical purposes, there is no chasm between them and the officials of our system or at any level of the hierarchy and that the officials only utilize funds from the treasury in cases of extreme need and necessity.

This is an allusion to the fact that officials or any of the employees who have permission are authorized to dip into the public treasury. In certain cases, perhaps, there is not even any right to do so; and this should be prevented and any funds spent should be returned to the Treasury.

Lest we forget, the Revolution, Islam, and our country have malevolent enemies who have suffered blows from our people as well as from Islam. Thus, they will continue take revenge on the Iranian nation. The powers of world arrogance at one time sought to prevent the Islamic Revolution but were unable to do so. There was a time when they had hopes of toppling the system or creating aberrations within it with the assistance of their internal agents, but they did not succeed. They also tried to undermine the Revolution and bleed it dry by imposing a war on it, but they were unsuccessful there too.

These powers also indulged in wishful thinking that our nation would be afflicted with rejectionism during the period of reconstruction, especially since the late imam

is not in our midst. The powers of arrogance were optimistic that in the post-imam period Iran would distance itself from the aspirations and principles of the Revolution. Today however, friend and foe alike admit that the Revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue along the same path as before, overcoming the consecutive obstacles in their path.

Naturally, in such circumstances the wounded enemies will continue to strive to wage and intensify "psychological warfare" against our people and our system by various tactics. We should not forget that even though the powers of arrogance are ever optimistic about creating a fissure between the system and the nation, in their innermost perceptions they are aware that the people, the Revolution, and the system are all one. In clearer terms, the powers of world arrogance sense bitterly that they have not been able to drive a wedge between the people and the officials and have suffered defeat in this regard.

Despite this state of affairs, we should not let this failure of the powers of world arrogance make us so complacent that we lack sensitivity toward daily issues or forget to appraise the unsuccessful aspects of the past and the current efforts of the powers of world arrogance and their lackeys.

We should remember that in the course of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, the Monafeqin ["hypocrites"—pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and all other agents of the powers of world arrogance, endeavored to instill a sort of ambivalence among the people through psychological warfare and spreading rumors in society.

In the past few days, some overt and covert agents of the powers of world arrogance once again sought to propagate certain rumors and to wage psychological warfare against the Revolution and its followers in this manner. These rumors were so superficial, fallacious, and worthless that they merely drew ridicule for the rumor mongers. In any case, these can serve as appropriate indicators of the extent of the efforts of the powers of world arrogance and their agents.

The cohorts of the powers of world arrogance carefully selected the 15-day Nowruz period when the organic [preceding word in English] contacts between the people and officials were at a minimum and the press was on vacation due to financial problems and especially the paper shortage. However, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which televised programs throughout this entire period did not make the slightest effort to meet their obligations in this regard, preferring to continue their normal programming: This is cause for complaint.

One must not ignore the fact that our people have participated wholeheartedly and justly in all the revolutionary arenas since the outset of its victory. In following the imam and his worthy successor, they have been the

true associates of the leadership. At the same time, we should not forget that the media, officials, and particularly the administration should pursue all issues with immense sensitivity and should make all necessary information available to the people.

Thus, they should foster firm and unwavering reciprocal trust between the people and the officials so that the people will conclude with absolute certainty that no report or essential information that they should know about has or will be withheld from them.

Regrettably, the opposite approach adopted by some of the officials in the case of the embezzlement of 123 billion tumans of the Saderat Bank has sapped the people's general trust regarding official clarifications. Varying postures were adopted by the officials regarding the misappropriated sum, even justifying it; and the people were not apprised of the details of the case. In fact, some officials censured those who questioned the occurrence of such an astonishing incident involving such an astronomical sum. This crude and thoughtless attitude dealt a direct blow to the people's "general trust" in officials and merely provided a breeding ground for a "rumor-spawning" atmosphere.

The Saderat Bank incident is one such case. All similar instances or occurrences that worry the people require a strong, reliable, and consistent approach to prove that our officials act vigilantly and place make all the necessary information directly available to the people for their awareness.

Our Revolution, system, officials, and all sections of our society acutely need such reciprocal trust, which should form the basis for consolidating our revolution, system, and society. Everyone should try to inculcate and strengthen this mutual confidence, as any laxity on this path will only create conditions for "bolstering the rumor-spawning atmosphere" and ultimately everyone will suffer because of it. May this never happen.

Velayati Meets ASEAN Official, Views Closer Ties

LD1204121395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Ajik Sing, secretary general of ASEAN, this morning met Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Velayati and stressed the need for closer cooperation between ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and ASEAN.

He referred to the result of his inspection of some major projects in the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that the construction of Bafq-Bandarabbas railway was an important step towards the expansion of relations between ECO and ASEAN.

In turn, Mr. Velayati called for the further expansion of bilateral ties and more exchange of ideas.

The ECO secretary general, who was also present at the meeting, presented a report describing grounds for closer cooperation between ECO and ASEAN.

Pakistan

Officials, Opposition React to Bhutto's U.S. Visit

Defense Minister: Visit 'Very Successful'

BK1304041895 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Apr 95 p 1

[APP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—Defence Minister, Aftab Shaban Mirani, said Wednesday in Naushero Feroze that visit of Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto to the United States would pave the way for creating stable peace in the South Asian region.

Talking to newsmen at the Naushero Feroze Press Club, the minister said the PM's visit is "very successful" and would surely create conditions which in turn lead to establish peaceful conditions in the region. It will benefit the entire nation and the prestige of Pakistan will be greatly enhanced in the comity of nations, he added.

There had been trouble and uncertainty in the entire South Asian region as the people are having a restless life and looking for a personality who could ensure "peace" for them, Mirani said. The minister said the answer lies in the "very successful" visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for carving a "dynamic foreign policy" which has raised the prestige of Pakistan internationally. He said now dispute like the Kashmir are internationally known and added it was a great service to the brave freedom-fighters, who are waging a heroic struggle for attaining freedom from the Indian yoke.

About Pressler amendment, defence minister said it has become redundant now with no validity any more. The prime minister has rightly said it had been discriminatory towards Pakistan and failed to check the proliferation of nuclear technology in the South Asian region as neighbouring India is openly violating it and fully involved in arms race, Mirani added. Even President Clinton has expressed his doubts about its effectiveness and, therefore, has rightly suggested that he will ask the Congress to review the Pressler Act and show flexibility in its consideration, Mirani added.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Abdullah Shah, has termed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States of America as a "tremendous success" and said that owing to a pragmatic foreign policy pursued by the present government, a new era of friendship between the two countries based on mutual interests would emerge very soon.

In a statement Wednesday, Syed Abdullah Shah said that success of the visit was manifested from achievements on a number of matters including Kashmir issue, which

had been in cold storage, but has now been recognised as a disputed territory and the US has called for resolving it in accordance with the UNO [UN Organization] resolutions and the Simla accord. Pakistan's stance on nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) has been recognised and now there is no pressure on Pakistan to sign it unilaterally, Syed Abdullah Shah added.

He said that the prime minister's address at various prestigious fora has cast salutary effects on public opinion in USA as result of which the US legislators were now openly in favour of Pakistan's stance on the issue of infamous Pressler amendment as now they were demanding its repeal. Syed Abdullah Shah the case of Pakistan with such eloquence as Benazir Bhutto did. He said that Pakistan-US relations are multidimensional and the prime minister has forcefully presented Pakistan's view point by saying that Pakistan believes in trade and not aid and our relations are of partnerships and not of dependence.

'Government Source' on Visit's Success

BK1304055095 Islamabad THE NATION in English
13 Apr 95 p 1

[Report "By Our Staff Reporter"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has been able to convince the United States about its stand on core issues like nuclear plan, Kashmir and Pressler Amendment, the prime objectives of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the US, said a government source on Wednesday [12 April].

The claim was made during a background briefing by official sources to throw light on different aspects of the Prime Minister's visit. The official first of all made it clear that Pakistan did not expect the US aid to resume as a result of just one visit and that the Prime Minister had not asked the American government for anything.

"What we wanted to put across, we did and statements of the US leaders amply indicate that they have finally realised Pakistan's point of view. The visit did result in US President Bill Clinton terming his own country's Pressler Law as unfair. The United States admitted at the highest level that Pakistan should not be singled out on the nuclear issue and that Kashmir was a disputed territory."

"These assertions would be the key to future developments in Pakistan-US relations. That is what we wanted. We wanted the US to recognise our viewpoint and the objective has achieved. As for expectations, such visits are not necessarily meant for making announcements. It is important that not only President Clinton would be on Pakistan's side when the issue of Pressler Amendment is raised but even people like Bob Dole and Jesse Helms have also voiced support to our stand," said the official.

About mere assurances, the crux of the briefing was that what more did Pakistan need. They very fact that the US

conceded having made a discriminatory law spoke of Pakistan's success. It was a sort of moral victory which is important in the sphere of international relations, and that too involving the US.

The source said the important thing to note was that President Clinton could not give his certification for repealing the Pressler Amendment as long as the Pakistan-US problems continue on the nuclear issue. The certification is conditional as to how Pakistan performs in the nuclear field. That would probably leave the one-time waiver or something of that sort as the only workable option.

The source termed the visit a fruitful beginning, considering that Pakistan had come perilously close to being declared a "terrorist state" just two years back. "It is a big step forward and things had been set into motion. Nobody can deny that we have been able to win the sympathy and the confidence of the US government which is no small thing. The Prime Minister went there to present Pakistan's case and that she did it very effectively."

According to the official, the Prime Minister had proved her qualities of a leader of international stature. "It is worth mentioning that she never took a defensive posture. Rather, she remained assertive on nuclear and Kashmir issues and yet she found sympathetic ears in the US government, legislature, power groups and media."

On issue basis, the source said the Secretary General Butrus-Ghali had once again reiterated that Kashmir remained on the UN agenda. He said even the US position appeared to be that UN resolutions on Kashmir were still alive and relevant. "The fact that US realises the disputed nature of Kashmir territory would certainly have impact on other powers also."

As for Pakistan's nuclear plan, he said the report in a US newspaper about the Khushab nuclear reactor was in itself a sufficient proof that the programme was still on. "All those allegations of government compromising on its nuclear plan stand rejected," said the source. The argument seemed to be holding good because if the programme had been abandoned or stalled, where did the new reactor come from.

The source also gave the government's view on the various Memoranda of Understanding [MU] signed with the US companies during the Prime Minister's visit.

He said it was wrong to say that the signing of such MUs was mere paperwork. "Even if we presume that these MUs mean nothing, what interest do these US companies have to sign them. These projects are duly scrutinised. And the companies cannot just back out these agreements because they have a reputation to maintain.

"They are definitely interested in Pakistan and that is evident from the fact that despite the Karachi situation, new MUs have materialised and investment has been pledged. Today, Pakistan's economic isolation has been

broken and the visit has set the stage for future development. With the rejection of Pressler Amendment, a major source of pressure has been removed."

When asked about anything concrete about the Pressler Law, the source said US Congressional procedures were complex. Amending laws there is more difficult than passing them. But with all parties adopting soft attitude towards Pakistan, its a question of time before a start was made in the Congress.

Asked about the publicity expenses of the visit, the source said mostly the funds had been arranged by getting sponsorships. He said it was the Water and Power Ministry which had overseen the entire exercise. To another question, he said the government had neither ordered nor stopped the telecast of cultural show on the PTV, which was performed by Pakistan's troupe in the US.

About the protests held by the anti-government parties during the Prime Minister's visit, the source said it did not have any impact because the US media did not accord it any worthwhile coverage.

Opposition: Bhutto Returning 'Empty Handed'

BK1304063395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States came under heavy criticism Wednesday when opposition leaders from the PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] blamed Ms Bhutto for returning home empty handed despite making a number of gestures to the Clinton administration before her visit.

"All the high hopes and expectations have been dashed because in substance Benazir Bhutto is coming home empty handed because there has been no US decision to give F-16 aircraft paid for by Pakistan, no refund of \$1.4 billion held up there for the equipment purchased by Pakistan and no decision to either repeal, waive or amend the Pressler Law," charged Syeda Abida Hussain. Others who spoke at the Muslim League House were Deputy Leader of Opposition Gohar Ayub Khan and Senator Raja Zafarul Haq.

Ms Hussain revealed that when Nawaz Sharif was prime minister he had negotiated with the US administration to sell the F-16 aircraft intended for Pakistan to Taiwan which had placed an order with the US. But as soon Sharif left the office Moin Qureshi wrote to the US government asking them to hold on to the aircraft, a policy which was continued by Ms Bhutto also.

Ms Hussain questioned the logic of entering into the contract for the aircraft with the Bush administration when there were no safeguards for Pakistan to ensure delivery of the aircraft.

Turning to Bill Clinton's assurances Ms Hussain said that the President had only said, "I intend to ask the

Congress to show some flexibility on Pressler Amendment so we can have some economic and military cooperation." The former ambassador to the US said that Clinton had used the word "intend" and there was no commitment to "tell" Congress. Again the President had spoken of asking the Congress to show "some" flexibility, again nothing definite.

All this the opposition leaders said was despite the fact that prior to her journey to the US, Ms Bhutto had made a number of gestures aimed at seeking US goodwill. These included, prompt extradition of Ramzi Yusuf, extradition of two drug barons, installation of US funded nuclear monitoring station at Chakwal, crackdown on Kashmir groups' offices in Pakistan and making statements before American journalists seeking US help against "Islamic militancy" and also terming Pakistan as a "frontline state" against Islamic militancy.

On Kashmir, the opposition leaders felt that President Clinton made it plain that the US can play the role of mediator "if both sides are willing that the US play the role" and neither condemned the Indian violation of human rights nor did he refer to the UN resolutions. In fact, he referred only to Indian talk of elections. "In effect referendum under UN auspices may well be substituted by a farcical election under Indian aegis, according to this view," said Ms Hussain.

The opposition will be presenting before Parliament the expenses incurred and wastage of money on what it says was the most expensive foreign journey ever undertaken by any leader in the history of Pakistan.

Editorials View Bhutto's Visit to Washington

'No Dramatic Breakthrough' Seen

BK1304045395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Dialogue at White House"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was warmly received and given a sympathetic hearing at the White House, albeit, in terms of tangible gains, no dramatic breakthrough has been secured in the stalemated Pak-US relations during her eagerly awaited dialogue with President Bill Clinton. Ms Bhutto's agenda for talks was clearly spelt out, her brief for a "fair deal for Pakistan" was logical, persuasive and eloquently put across, but above all, she was able to communicate with her American hosts on a wavelength that they could catch. She spoke of Pakistan's frontline role in the fight against "international terrorism, narcotics, illegal immigration and counterfeit currency" and reminded the Americans that Pakistan was a "moderate, democratic Islamic country" and not the kind of despotic of fundamentalist state that they are unwilling to play ball with. The message has apparently been brought home. President Clinton expressed appreciation for Pakistan's cooperation and was rather apologetic for the US not being

fair to Pakistan, a country, he insisted, which had not been "dumped" by the US and he himself saw as a "symbol of democracy and moderation". The core issue of Benazir's agenda, lifting of sanctions against Pakistan, was discussed at length, but as was being anticipated, remained inconclusive, notwithstanding the consolation that Clinton confessed: "I don't think what has happened was fair." And while he expressed his inability to release the equipment for which Pakistan had paid, saying that he couldn't do it under the present law, he vowed to work with the Congress to find a way to deal with the Pressler Amendment. The "prize catch" of Benazir's mission to the US has thus been the publicly expressed pro-Pakistan tilt in the US administration's stance on the Pressler Amendment. But whether or not it can manage to rope in the Congress for a modification in the law that may prove handy to outgrow the sanctions regime against Pakistan's is too early to predict, and it would be rather naive to assume that inflow of US arms and equipment is round the corner.

President Clinton's response to the suggestion for a mediation role in the Kashmir dispute had nothing new to offer, but was basically a reiteration of what has been the US policy on the issue. The US cannot play the honest broker because the Indians are not willing to accept mediation, Clinton said. Benazir Bhutto's pleas for an even-handed US policy in South Asia has ostensibly been acknowledged in Washington as a just and equitable basis for rectifying the wrong done to Pakistan. Nevertheless, the litmus test of a real change of heart would be a tangible manifestation of the US willingness to exert visible pressure on India to follow the same rules of the game which have been set for Pakistan. And the alibi that one of the two parties to the Kashmir dispute is not ready for mediation should not be enough for the US to extricate itself from the moral responsibility of living up to its promise of promoting the cause of freedom and human rights universally and with no strings of power politics attached it.

'Sick Relationship' With U.S. Viewed

BK1304032795 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
13 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Pressler stays where it is and so does the money"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The joint press conference held by Prime Minister [PM] Bhutto and US President Clinton had at least one thing going for it. The Prime Minister presented Pakistan's case very well. Her assertion that "we have enough knowledge and capability to make and assemble a nuclear weapon, but we have voluntarily chosen not to" was particularly forceful and convincing. Together with the PM's addresses and interviews elsewhere, the press conference has clearly spelled out the nature of the Pressler problem. That, hitherto, has been Ms Bhutto's achievement on her current visit to the United States. The question is: Is that enough?

It would be enough if the American leaders had responded by saying one of two things: we shall exempt Pakistan from the Pressler Law, or we shall return your money. What the American President said in response was far from enough. Too far. Within a span of one minute he repeated a single statement thrice. In fact, this statement ran like a leitmotif through all his utterances during the press conference: "We cannot release the equipment." In effect, this means that Pressler is going to stay and we are not going to receive the F-16s. What about the money? Are we going to get it back, even if without interest? Mr Clinton had this to say: "I intend to consult with them (the Congress) about what we ought to do about the airplane sale... I am going to try to find a resolution to it." He is "going to try to find"—good luck, Mr President, and very good luck Ms Prime Minister.

If there were awards for stating the obvious, Mr Clinton and Ms Bhutto would by now have achieved enough to deserve the highest of them. If the Prime Minister has presented her country's case well, she has presented it to those who were already very well-informed about it—that is, Mr Clinton and his Congress. What Mr Clinton said in return was nothing more than what has been said by all American officials for the last five years: We are going to try to... This is a clear indication that nothing has in fact been achieved by the Prime Minister's visit as far as the Pressler situation goes. Pakistan has been given a big pat-on-the-back for helping United States satisfy all desires, and has been encouraged to do more while the US is going to try to...

And as pats-on-the-back go, the US variety is of a particularly patronising kind. Witness Mr Clinton's speech at the start of the press conference. He talked about how Pakistan had always been useful to the United States, but could not mention a single instance of the reverse. Perhaps there was nothing to mention. More significantly, he seemed to be saying: Keep it up, kids! His words betrayed, unintentionally, that this has long been a relationship in which the United States has to do nothing in return for Pakistan's loyalty. Much like the relationship between a dog and his master. The condescension implied in statements like "We would like this trend to continue"—regarding Pakistan's recent help in nabbing alleged criminals, etc—is almost unbearable. It is a clear indication that this is an unequal relationship. Is there anything at all in America's behaviour with us to which our Prime Minister could have said, "We would like this trend to continue?"

Frustratingly, almost every day of Ms Bhutto's visit to America brings a new reminder of the gross mistake our leaders are making in claiming "friendship" with America. Equality is a necessary condition for friendship and this condition remains unsatisfied in our relationship with the US. This should be obvious to anyone who can notice that, even for getting what is rightfully ours, we always have to beg America. Americans, on the other hand, have never even had to ask us for anything: We do more than they want before they can even put the

question. Condescension and patronisation on the part of the Americans is therefore inevitable. It is not inevitable, however, for us to continue this sick relationship. To curry favour with this one unreliable "friend" we are alienating many a faithful neighbour. We must seek friendships elsewhere and reduce America's role in our affairs to that of a distant non-hostile power—which is what it is.

Rejection of U.S. Demands Urged

BK1304014995 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
12 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Nuclear Deterrent—There Must Not Be Any Compromise With the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a WASHINGTON TIMES report, a senior U.S. official has said that if Islamabad abandons its nuclear program, U.S. aid to Pakistan will be resumed and the 38 F-16 planes—for which \$658 million has already been paid to the manufacturer but whose delivery has been blocked by the Pressler Amendment—will be supplied to our country. For a long time now the U.S. Government has been asking that Islamabad forgo its nuclear program to start receiving U.S. aid again, and—Bravo!—Pakistan has gradually been accepting Washington's conditions, despite its seemingly negative stance toward them. The country's nuclear program was capped during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's first term in office. Now her government has accepted a proposal to establish a seismic center at Chakwal to enable the nonintrusive inspection of Pakistan's nuclear program. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has admitted: "We have already compromised on the nuclear program. We have not made nuclear weapons nor do we intend to do so. We do not have any difficulty in signing the nuclear test ban treaty."

In an interview with CNN's "Business Asia" program, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said: "We only have the capability to manufacture nuclear weapons. We have not made nuclear weapons nor do we intend to do so. We believe in nuclear nonproliferation, and Pakistan is against the transfer of nuclear technology to Iran or any other country." Appearing on another CNN program, "Larry King Live," Benazir Bhutto said she has positive hopes that the Clinton administration will supply the 38 F-16 aircraft.

The statements of the prime minister and foreign minister clearly indicate that Pakistan has already accepted the U.S. conditions to a large extent, merely to obtain the 38 F-16 aircraft. Meanwhile, the Pakistani public and political leadership have been expressing apprehension that the Benazir government might accept the U.S. conditions—which may bring an end to whatever remains of Pakistan's nuclear program, which is necessary to safeguard the country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity—for the sake of U.S. military and economic aid. It is not necessary for the United States to give favorable treatment to Pakistan

after we accept all of Washington's conditions. If aid to Pakistan can be stopped and the delivery of the F-16's withheld this long, even after Pakistan capped its nuclear program, what are the chances that the United States will adopt a munificent attitude after Islamabad totally abandons its nuclear program? Our recent history reveals that the United States showered economic and military aid on Pakistan during the Afghan war. Pakistan's nuclear program was in existence at that time, but the United States needed Pakistan to deal with the Soviet threat. That is why Washington did not care about democracy or feel the prick of the thorn of our nuclear program. It did not frown on General Ziaul Haq's Islamic policies, just as it did not try to force Islamabad into a compromise on Kashmir, talk of Pakistan accepting Indian hegemony, or describe holy war as terrorism. Today's terrorists were then called holy warriors and freedom fighters. At that time, the U.S. President quietly issued a certificate every year saying Pakistan did not possess nuclear weapons, thus ensuring the flow of aid to this country. In those days, Pakistan was considered one of the cornerstones of U.S. foreign policy.

This proves that the United States only gives aid to a country when it wants to use that country to serve its own interests. It turns away when that need is fulfilled. Since 1988, Pakistan has been accepting U.S. conditions one after another—despite superficially rejecting them—but Washington has not given anything in reward. Nothing can be expected from it. The more we capitulate, the more the United States will press us. The proof of this is before us. They have started talking about making Karachi a free port; an alternative to Hong Kong. The story about the alleged sale of Gwadar is becoming public and there is talk of a third option [preceding two words in English] on Kashmir. Britain has openly described the UN resolutions on Kashmir as obsolete and irrelevant. Despite Pakistan's friendship with Germany, the German president has called for resolving the Kashmir dispute through direct negotiations. In the eyes of the United States, the human rights violations are the only serious problem in Kashmir. It appears something is cooking on Kashmir, and it may not be in Pakistan's favor. Attempts are being made to arrange a meeting of the Kashmiri leadership from both sides of the border in a third country. The meeting was going to be held in Kathmandu, but Nepal cannot provoke India's anger and thus a new venue is being sought.

Talking to Larry King on CNN, Prime Minister Bhutto said: "The Kashmir problem can be resolved. If the problem of South Africa can be resolved, peace can be established in the Middle East, and the Ireland dispute can be settled politically, then why can't the Kashmir dispute be resolved?" Benazir Bhutto said the international community, the United Nations, or the United States should intercede in the negotiations on Kashmir the same way they intervened to resolve the South African and Palestinian conflicts. India and Pakistan have fought three wars, and there is the danger of

another war. According to experts, it would be a nuclear war. At the same time, the prime minister said: "There has been no war between the two countries since 1971 because both countries have acquired a nuclear capability as a deterrent." In our opinion, the prime minister herself hinted at the fact—the collective wish of the entire nation—that Pakistan will not forgo its nuclear deterrent [preceding two words in English] capability. Without this, Pakistan can never get Kashmir back. The absence of this deterrent would pose a serious threat to Pakistan's security.

If the prime minister is aware of these dangers, it is her duty to reject any U.S. pressure. Even if she accepts all the U.S. conditions, her visit to the United States cannot be productive. If she does not accept these conditions, at least our nuclear program—the guardian of Pakistan's independence, sovereignty, and security—will remain intact. If we achieve anything from the prime minister's visit to the United States, it will be by adopting a bold stand and not by bowing before the United States.

Sri Lanka

Reportage on Continued Peace Talks With LTTE

4th Round of Talks Held

BK1004124095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fourth round of talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] were held in Jaffna today. Reports from Jaffna say that the talks started this morning at the LTTE's political headquarters. The government delegation was headed by secretary to the president, K. Balapatabendi. The sources further said that the LTTE delegation was led by leader of the political wing, Thamil Chelvam. The government delegation left the Ratmalana Airport earlier in the day. After arriving at the Palaly army camp, they left for Jaffna in a helicopter. It arrived at the St. John's College ground in Jaffna and according to the soldiers, the government delegation was welcomed by many political leaders of the LTTE.

The peace talks is the main news item published in newspapers in Jaffna today. The main report is in the LTTE's official newspaper (EELAMDAM). It reported that the LTTE had published that it was ready for the

peace talks. The earlier round of negotiations between the government and the LTTE was held on the 14th of January.

Lifting of Restrictions Discussed

BK1104122195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fourth round of talks between the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] were held in Jaffna yesterday. Three of the six-member government delegation returned to Colombo last night. According to official sources, they reported to President Chandrika Kumartunga. Presidential secretary, K. Balapatabendi, and two security personnel—Brigadier (Siri Pedis) and Navy Captain Prasanna Rajaratna returned after six hours of intensive talks with the LTTE delegation headed by political wing chief, Thamil Chelvam. The other members Anglican Bishop Kenneth Fernando; Official Languages Commission chairman, Charles Abeysekara; and Sri Lanka Foundation chairman, Dr. Jayadeva Uyangoda; stayed back to continue the talks. The presidential secretariat is expected to issue a communique today on the talks.

Reports from Jaffna say that the lifting of the ban on the transport of petrol and diesel, and the removal of fishing restrictions were the main topics discussed.

Talks End on 'Optimistic Note'

BK1204152795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fourth round of talks between the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] delegation concluded yesterday. The government said that a communique will be issued today. The three government delegates who stayed back to continue the talks for the second day returned last night, and defense sources said the talks had ended on an optimistic note. A Colombo-dated AFP report quoting defense sources said the government has agreed in principle to lift the fuel and fishing ban imposed soon after the war broke out in June 1990. The ban on most of the goods used by civilians was lifted in August last year and fishing restrictions lifted partially in January.

Bishop Kenneth Fernando, Official Languages Commission chairman—Charles Abeysekara, and Sri Lanka Foundation chairman—Dr. Jayadeva Uyangoda returned last night. The team leader, presidential secretary, Kusumsiri Balapatabendi; and security personnel, Brigadier (Siri Pedis); and Navy Captain Rajaratna returned after six hours of talks on Monday [10 April] night.

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